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WORLD SOCCER

The INTERNATIONAL Magazine

WORLD CUP '94 . . .

WHY AN AMERICAN DREAM IS COMING TRUE – SPECIAL REPORT

CLUB FOCUS ON: REAL MADRID . . . UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA

WORLD SOCCER

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

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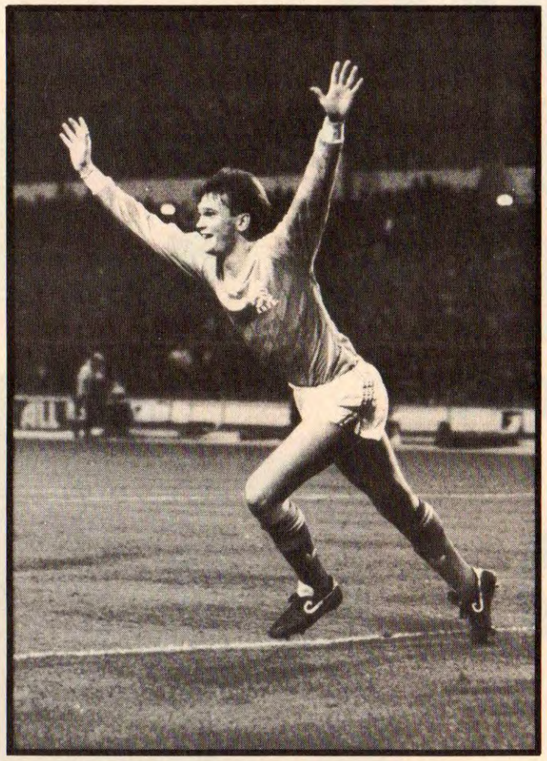

JOHN BOSMAN celebrates Holland's second goal at Wembley.

DUTCH MASTER WARNS ENGLAND

ENGLAND were warned just how tough it may be at the European Finals in June when they were held 2-2 at Wembley by Holland.

Ruud Gullit was the star of the night before he limped off with cramp just after the hour. But he and his weakened Dutch team did enough to put a question mark against many optimistic judgements about England's European ambitions.

Arsenal's Tony Adams was in the thick of the action. He 'scored' an offside goal, provided Holland's equaliser at 1-1 with an own goal and then headed England level at 2-2 midway through the second half.

England manager Bobby Robson was full of praise for the Dutch and Gullit after an entertaining match. But he may also have been secretly pleased that much of the over-confidence building up in the domestic game may evaporate in the build-up to West Germany.

The Soviet Union recovered from their 4-1 defeat by Italy, when they won 4-0 in Greece in a friendly which saw new Kiev signing Oleg Protasov grab a hat-trick.

But Spain suffered their second consecutive defeat when they went down 2-1 away to France.

The Irish Republic maintained their impressive form with a sixth consecutive victory as they beat a weakened Rumania 2-0 in Dublin.

The semi-finals of the European Under-21 Championship will see France play England and Greece play Holland — who eliminated defending champions Spain in the quarter-finals.

DEATH TOLL RISES

FIFA'S campaign to ban all standing fans from World Cup matches has gathered pace after the latest two stadium tragedies to hit world football.

In Katmandu, Nepal, between 73 and 95 people died when 30,000 fans tried to escape from the stadium during a freak storm. All but one of the eight exits was locked and many of the dead fans were asphyxiated. That was on Saturday, March 12.

Only two days earlier, 20 people died in Tripoli when part of a stand collapsed at a match between Libya and Malta.

The collapse was put down to one section of the crowd panicking after fans wielded knives.

FIFA has been, as a matter of urgency, distributing new security guidelines to federations on stadia preparation and safety.

Spokesman Guido Tognoni said: "It is clear that spectators must be able to leave a stadium quickly.

"This appears not to have been possible. We are asking the national federations of Nepal and Libya to provide detailed accounts of the incidents.

"We can't do much. But we have to call the elementary security precautions to the attention of all federations."

A graphic account of the chaos in Tripoli has come from the Malta forward Carmel Busuttil.

He said: "Neither we nor the Libyans could believe what we were seeing.

"But the match wasn't suspended. We continued to play while people were dying in the stands. It was shameful.

"It took an ambulance driving onto the pitch with siren screaming to finally halt the game. One ambulance for ten, 100 or 1,000 people!"

Busuttil, who plays for north Italian minor league team Verbania, added that local reports claimed "two men had pulled out knives in the stands at Tripoli's June 11 Stadium, causing spectators to panic and rush for the exits.

"The crush of people put pressure on a supporting wall which gave way, resulting in the stand collapsing."

Busuttil said: "The stand gave way and fell onto the spectators. It was a scene I'll never forget."

The match was part of an international sports festival in the Libyan capital. Libya held a 1-0 lead when play was halted.

Busuttil said he stood "paralysed" on the field as the tragedy unfolded.

"I asked my opponent in English what had happened," he said. "He replied, quite calmly, that perhaps a small bomb had exploded, like this sort of thing happened every day."

Busuttil said some people desperately tried to hold onto the top level of three seating tiers as the cement gave way.

"What horror to see those bodies suspended, waiting for help which never arrived," he said.

"The people were falling like a waterfall. Players formed a human chain and took eight minutes to fight their way through the crowd on the field before reaching the dressing room.

"We stayed there for 45 minutes," Busuttil said. "Some of us prayed. When we came out, we saw chunks of cement being loaded onto trucks. It was the worst day of my life."

The Malta team waited in Tripoli airport until Friday morning to catch a flight out of Libya.

"It will be difficult for me to play again," said Busuttil. "In all of the tragedy, I didn't see one policeman. God only knows if there were any in the stadium."

The Nepal disaster was triggered by a violent hailstorm, which sent thousands of spectators rushing for cover.

But exits at the stadium had been locked by police and witnesses claim they refused to open them without orders from their officers. Hundreds of people fell in the crush.

Thirty thousand fans had been watching the match between a Nepalese and a Bangladeshi team.

Witnesses told of people fainting at the barred exits, then being trampled underfoot.

Doctors at Bir hospital, the capital's main emergency centre, said the known death toll of 95 could reach 175 because of the serious nature of many of the injuries.

None of the players were hurt in the incident.

Two dissident members of the Nepalese parliament later called for the resignation of the government over the tragedy as angry crowds stoned cars, calling "Death to the police".

Diego Maradona

MENOTTI SACKED

TWO of the most famous names in Argentine football, Cesar Luis Menotti and Alfredo Di Stefano, have been sacked in Spain.

Menotti was dismissed by Atletico Madrid after a 3-1 home defeat by runaway league leaders Real Madrid finally killed off whatever faint hopes remained of Atletico overtaking their neighbours.

Further upset for Atletico was the expulsion of Portuguese winger Paolo Futre, himself the subject of increasing transfer speculation because of Atletico's cash-flow crisis.

Di Stefano was axed by Valencia the same day as Menotti was sacked by Atletico. A 3-1 home defeat by Zaragoza, which sent Valencia slipping to 14th in the 20-club first division, was the catalyst.

Uncertainty surrounds the position of caretaker Luis Aragones at Barcelona following Barsa's 3-1 defeat away to Celta of Vigo. That pushed Barcelona to ninth place and only a cup final victory (on March 30 against Real Sociedad) appeared open to protect their unique record of competing in Europe every year since international club competition began in 1955.

Reports

Johan Cruyff, out of a job since walking out on Ajax in January, has denied reports that he will take over Barcelona next season. Barcelona have also been turned down by Argentina's World Cup-winning boss, Carlos Bilardo.

TWO dope test scandals have rocked Greek football. The clubs involved are surprise league leaders Larissa, and crisis-hit champions Olympiakos.

Larissa had four points deducted after Bulgarian forward Georgi Tsingov failed a dope test after a 2-1 win over Panathinaikos on December 27. Tsingov was banned for two years; then, two days after that disciplinary sentence, Olympiakos' new Uruguayan striker, Diego Aguirre, was reported as having failed a test after a 2-0 win over Verria on February 14.

In the Larissa case, the decision by a sports disciplinary executive, Vassilis Andronikos, provoked extraordinary scenes in the town of Larissa. More than 10,000 angry fans demonstrated in the main square before blocking the main road towards Athens as well as immobilising two trains in the railway station.

Larissa have appealed.

A REPEAT of the 1962 Champions' Cup classic between Real Madrid and Benfica remains a possibility after the draw for the semi-finals placed them apart. Madrid face runaway Dutch leaders PSV Eindhoven, while Benfica take on Steaua Bucharest — European champions in 1986.

The prospects of Ajax Amsterdam becoming the first team to win the Cup-winners' Cup two years in a row remain bright. They face Marseille in the semi-finals. In the other tie Belgium's surprise team of the season, Mechelen, face Italy's last survivors, Atalanta — ironically from the second division.

In the UEFA Cup the winners of the Club Brugge v Espanol tie will host the first leg of the final against the winners of the all-German semi-final, Bayer Leverkusen v Werder Bremen.

Semi-final ties must be played on April 6 and 20. The Champions' Cup final is in Stuttgart on May 25, the Cup-winners' final in Strasbourg on May 11 and the UEFA Cup final on May 4 and 18.

ARGENTINA'S World Cup skipper, Diego Maradona, will lead them in a four-team tournament in West Berlin over Easter. But Jorge Burruchaga (Nantes) and Jorge Valdano (Real Madrid) will not be available.

Argentina play the Soviet Union on March 31, the same day hosts West Germany face Sweden in the other semi-final. The third-place match and the final are on April 2.

Squad

West German team boss Franz Beckenbauer named three uncapped players in a squad of 25 preparing for West Berlin. The three were Andres Kopke, the Nurnberg goalkeeper, and Werder Bremen's Uli Borowka and Frank Neubarth.

BRAZIL BEATEN AT WEMBLEY

WEMBLEY has always been a happy home for England's under-15's. Since 1950 they have played 55 games there against eight different opponents, and lost only 10 of them five to Scotland, five to West Germany.

Now England have added — and beaten — new opponents, Brazil.

On their first-ever trip to Europe (their tour, sponsored by the English Schools FA included games against England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Holland) the Brazilians did not find the weather to their liking.

They had spent 12 days training together in Rio de Janeiro, with temperatures in the 90s. England welcomed them with 50 degrees and chilly, damp air.

Coach Jose Teixeira said: "We're preparing for next year, for the World Under-16 event in Scotland — so this is a young team most of the boys are 14 so the purpose of this tour is to give them experience. What better than a game against England at Wembley?"

Before 55,000 mostly young fans, England dominated from start to finish. Had England not wasted several gilt-edged scoring chances in the second half, they would have punished Brazil much more harshly than the 2-0 scoreline.

Up front for England Steven Mulrain's skill and size proved a major problem for Brazil. It was Mulrain who scored the first goal, heading in a long cross from Darren Christian. But England's outstanding player was midfielder and captain Lee Clark. Fittingly, he scored the second goal from a penalty after he had been brought down.

Afterwards coach Teixeira puzzled over Brazil's poor performance. He said "Forwards like Marques and Luciano, are stars with their clubs but today they did nothing. But the boys were tense — and England are a good, balanced, team."

A triumphant afternoon for England, but there was no disguising that this was a very disappointing performance by the Brazilians.

PAUL GARDNER

WORLD CUP 94. . . THE AMERICAN DREAM

US SHOULD NOT TAKE IT FOR GRANTED!

The United States are favourites to host the 1994 World Cup. Will FIFA's vote go their way on July 4?

SPECIAL REPORT FROM KEIR RADNEDGE

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS did it. A FIFA delegation will do it later this month. And then, if all goes to plan, the entire world of football will do so in 1994.

Discover America, that is.

When it comes to open logic, it's hard to fault the United States' bid to host the 1994 World Cup Finals.

It's not merely a matter of their own merit but of the demerits of their Brazilian and Moroccan rivals.

But soccer, as the Americans call the game (and who is World Soccer to argue?) is not all about logic. It is not all about appearances. At the highest level, it is political, it is secretive and all may not be as it seems.

The Brazilians are in a minor panic because D-Day has been switched from June 30 to July 4.

Brazilian confederation president Octavio Pinto de Guimaraes suspects the decision is already made and that American Independence Day has purposely been chosen as an appropriate timing.

The Americans would be blind if they did not think so too.

But, to their credit, officials of the US Federation and their autonomously-financed World Cup organisation refrain from saying so.

As USSF media director Thom Meredith says: "We purposely want to keep our operation professional but low-key.

"We don't want anyone saying 'here come those brash Americans'. We don't want to give anyone those sort of excuses for turning us down."

The Americans have all the answers to all the obvious questions. They presented FIFA, before Christmas, with a two volume dossier on their bid.

They also shocked convention by providing the international media with a summary — an unheard-of departure from protocol in a game where suspicion of the media is almost a fetish.

What the Americans do not have is an understanding of some of the illogical questions which may be thrown at them.

The eyes of Meredith and of Paul Stiehl, the USSF treasurer and designated World Cup director, glaze over when faced with the question of which venue is likely to stage the opening match and which will stage the Final.

Stiehl says: "The US have so many good stadia that it's too early to decide."

All well and good. But that is a reply which leaves a distinct impression of unspoken complications.

The Americans have already secured remarkable legal contracts with all possible stadium owners.

They will, at their own expense, carry out all necessary adjustments to meet FIFA's World Cup stadia specifications — which includes laying real grass pitches over the plastic carpets.

They have also guaranteed advert-free, seat-free stadia, something which was beyond the Mexicans and which is a matter of major million-dollar concern to FIFA's commercial agents, ISL.

One suspects, however, that they may have done so on the possibility that they might get the ultimate prize — the World Cup Final itself.

Stiehl professes mystification at why, at a distance of six years, even the slightest hint of Opening and Final venues should carry any significance.

There are two reasons — and the Americans would be advised to heed them.

First, the absence of nominations suggests an uncertainty which does the American case no good.

Secondly, having a start and finish line provides the sort of skeleton on which the flesh and blood of the World Cup can later be created.

It does matter to outsiders and it's no good the Americans saying it should not.

They may find FIFA's five-man inspection team (Ernie Walker, Horst Schmidt, Agustin Dominguez, Guido Tognoni and Walter Gagg) coming up with similar questions.

They appear illogical to the Americans. But it is no answer to say they should not matter. That just feeds suspicion and rumour.

Soccer has come a long way since the NASL revolution of the 1960s and 1970's put the United States more firmly on the soccer map than ever their World Cup achievements (semi-finalists in 1930, famous victory over England in 1950).

Clive Toye is the man who deserves much of the credit. Having tired of Fleet Street sportswriting, he went to the States in the sixties "intending to stay for two years and then go home".

Home is now Westchester, New York state, because he was quickly captivated by the American soccer potential.

But how soon will that potential be fully harnessed? As Toye admits in these pages, time-consuming mistakes have already been made.

The enthusiasm of soccer folk states-side is attractive and infectious. But there are plenty of well-meaning doubters, too.

World Soccer has received a number of letters from Americans who say the US is NOT ready for the World Cup.

Stiehl believes the World Cup will be a success because the Americans are a "big-event public".

But there are soccer lovers in the media, including Lawrie Mifflin, Deputy Sports Editor of the New York Times, who fear that "once the World Cup has gone, then most people may go back to doing whatever they were doing before".

One thing is certain: whether the US collect the World Cup vote does NOT depend, as some outsiders have suggested, on "razzamatazz". They are deliberately trying to distance themselves from that element of American showbiz.

It has also been reported that the Americans have already got the World Cup. Totally wrong. No-one has the World Cup of 1994 until FIFA's executive vote on July 4.

The Americans involved are wise, remembering the fiasco of their hasty 1986 bid, not to be seen to be jumping the gun.

That could well be their trump card.

SEMI-FINALS
United States 2 (Murray 72, 78)
Millionarios 1 (Raigoza 55)
HT: 0-0. Att: 14,877.
United States: Fuchs — Diffley, Doyle, Cogsville (Pastor 46), Gillen, Ramos, Harkes, Grimes, Vermes, Kerr, Murray.
Millionarios: Cousillas — Gutierrez, Prince, Conde, Garcia, Vanemerak, Pimental, Videla (Bernal 53), Juarez, Hernandez, Diaz, Raigoza (Abonia 53).

Nacional 1 (Galeano 56)
Colo Colo 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 14,877 (joint)
Nacional: Higuita — Herrera, Perea, Escobar, Villa, Alvarez, Garcia, Fajardo (Suarez 66), Galeano, Alex Valderrama (Carmona 80), Arango.
Colo Colo: Moron — Garrido, Rojas, Hormazabal (Alarcon 62), Neculnir, Pizarro, Rubio, Montenegro, Drabowski (Gutierrez 56), Jauregui, Ormeno.

THIRD PLACE MATCH
Colo Colo 2 (Montenegro 4, Pizarro 10 pen)
Millionarios 1 (Abonia 69)
HT: 2-0. Att: 17,244 (joint). Ref: Salas (US)
Colo Colo: Moron — Alarcon, Garrido, Rojas, Neculnir, Rubio (Bello 57), Pizarro, Ormeno, Montenegro (Gonzalez 75), Gallo, Jauregui.
Millionarios: Cousillas — Gutierrez (Videla 66), Prince, Conde, Hernando, Garcia, Vanemerak, Pimental, Raigoza (Abonia 54), Diaz, Giron, Juarez.

FINAL
United States 2 (Ramos 13, Vermes 48)
Nacional 3 (Higuita 31 pen, Valderrama 49, 82)
HT: 1-1. Att: 17,244 (joint). Ref: Osborne (Bermuda).
US: Dodd — Doyle, Diffley, Balboa, Agoos, Thompson, Ramos, Murray, Harkes, Grimes, Vermes.
Nacional: Higuita — Herrera, Perea, Escobar, Villa (Gomez 46), Garcia, Alvarez, Fajardo (Suarez 86), Alex Valderrama, Arango, Galeano.

SHOCK tactic use of a series of four team tournaments is one of the weapons being employed by American soccer officials as high-profile publicity for the game.

The Marlboro Cup series involves four such events. The first was in Miami, Florida, staged in the impressive new Joe Robbie Stadium.

Tournament number two is this month at San Antonio and then three and four are in Los Angeles and New York in August.

There is another plus: the opportunity for the US national team (in whatever form it can be roped together given the conflicting demands of the Major Indoor Soccer League) to play together and gain experience against more practised and sophisticated foreign opposition.

In Miami, that meant a US team made up of college players competing against Colo Colo of Chile and the Colombian clubs Atletico Nacional (coached by Colombian national manager Francisco Maturana) as well as the Colombian champions, Millionarios of Bogota.

Millionarios won this same Miami Cup last year and were favourites this time. In the event, they were a sad disappointment.

Not that the Americans minded too much when the scoreline, after the most intriguing of the semi-finals, ended United States 2 Millionarios 1.

As US coach Lothar Osiander freely admitted, the Americans' physical style — they look very English — upset the technical Colombians.

After a disappointing first half, which brought the Colombians a goal from Jorge Raigoza, the Americans recovered to win thanks to a twin strike from golf pro's son, Bruce Murray.

In the other semi-final of a tournament into which Marlboro had ploughed around £150,000, Nacional beat Colo Colo 1-0.

Colo Colo, like most Chilean teams down through the soccer ages, are short on height and weight but are skilful and neat.

And that was enough to put them into the driving seat and a 2-0 lead within ten minutes of the start of the third-place match against a despondent and impoverished Millionarios.

First, Leonardo Montenegro side-footed home in the fourth minute after an angled near post cross from Eduardo Gallo. Then Gallo was brought down by Eduardo Pimental and Jaime Pizarro converted the penalty.

The penalty decision infuriated the Colombians and provided ample evidence of the general wisdom of restricting playbacks on those giant video screens only to goals — during the match at least.

When Julio Salas, the American FIFA referee, awarded the spotkick, he was immediately surrounded by Colombians pointedly urging him to watch the replay and change his mind.

In fact, the replay only confirmed (several times over) that Salas had been correct. But the logic and the irony was lost on Millionarios.

Coach Luis Augusto Garcia clearly had some sharp words for his Colombians at half time. Under the midfield impulsion of Mario Vanemerak, they looked a different team in the second half.

The Colo Colo goal was brought under intense pressure and their Argentine goalkeeper Daniel Moron made three fine saves — whose effect on the crowd was enhanced by the theatrical agility he brought to his work.

However, just when it seemed Colo Colo had weathered the storm, Moron dropped a clanger as substitute Jair Abonia headed through both his hands and his legs.

Millionarios threw everything into attack for the last ten minutes. Hilariously, even goalkeeper Ruben Cousillas was to be seen chasing the ball around just inside the Colo Colo half!

But the Chileans survived and Millionarios slunk gloomily away to the certainty only of a major inquest back home.

Losing to Colo Colo would not have been as bad if Millionarios had not committed the unforgiveable sin of losing to the American gringos first. From that point on, there was no way back.

Nacional, on Miami comparisons at any rate, looked a far better, more confident outfit.

To be honest, neither third place match nor the Final were impressive technically.

Too many mistakes, too much loose passing, too little sustained concentration both on behalf of the US and on behalf of Nacional.

But it was entertaining — right from the moment in the 13th minute when, against the run of play, Tab Ramos fired a 30-yard drive out of nowhere and past Nacional keeper Rene Higuita.

The goal was the ultimate punishment for Colombian over-elaboration in midfield when Alexis Garcia and Alex Valderrama (no relation to Carlos, the 'South American Gullit') tried to be too clever.

PARTNERS in progress . . . USSF media director Thom Meredith and World Cup director Paul Smith.

Murray tacked decisively and pushed the ball on for Ramos.

Murray was again in the thick of the action six minutes later, this time with another defence-splitting pass which Billy Thompson thumped against the bar from close range.

Nacional did not deserve to be behind. They played delicate but progressive football, interchanging with a speed and understanding which boded ill for the young Americans.

The Colombians also had the edge when it came to nerve-jangling gamesmanship.

On the half hour, Juan Galeano was tripped by Murray in the American penalty box. Yet it was fully two minutes before the kick was taken.

First everyone had to wait while Higuita strolled the length of the pitch. Then he and referee Osborne disagreed over how the ball should be placed on the penalty spot.

Osborne would place it in the middle; Higuita would replace it just off-centre.

Eventually, Osborne lost his patience and booked Higuita. But by then, the goalkeeper's delaying tactics had had their effect on American counterpart Mark Dodd, who was beaten all ends up by the eventual spotkick.

Shortly before half-time, Jaime Arango, Nacional's best forward, scored a pretty 'goal' which was then disallowed for a previous infringement and it was the Americans who regained the lead in the 49th minute.

John Doyle headed back a far post corner and centre forward Peter Vermes lashed a shot into the roof of the net.

One more minute and Nacional were level. The Americans allowed Valderrama to side step his way across two powder-puff tackles and shoot inside the near post.

And it was Valderrama who wrapped it all up with seven minutes remaining when he lashed a textbook angled freekick beyond the end of the wall and just inside the top corner.

Maturana, Higuita and the rest of the Colombians made the usual polite remarks about the Americans.

But US coach Osiander has many problems to resolve for the Olympic qualifiers, never mind the next World Cup qualifiers or a possible hosting for 1994.

The absence of an established professional league means there is nowhere for Osiander's boys to go when they finish college.

Therefore, he must work with inexperienced youngsters — plus whoever he can prise away at odd times from the MISL.

In a sport where internationals are reckoned to be at their peak at around the ages of 27 or 28, that means a major competitive disadvantage.

Also, because of the high school/college role in the American soccer pyramid, soccer remains something of a middle class sport.

It will remain so while the blacks and the hispanics, whose technical strengths are needed to leaven the present anglo-German style, do not see soccer as the shantytown escape route which it is in South America.

What about the Colombians — particularly bearing in mind the national team's forthcoming tour to play England, Finland and Scotland?

There were, of course, none of the stars of Deportivo or America Cali, who add skill and steel to the national team.

However, Millionarios are champions and Nacional will supply not only coach Maturana but at least half a dozen players to the tour party.

On Miami evidence, they are skilful but do not enjoy coping with opponents whose style owes much to pace and strength.

Glenn Hoddle could have a field day with those long, raking passes to take advantage of the defensive gaps both Columbian teams left on the wing in defence.

England manager Bobby Robson might do himself a favour and miss the FA Cup Final this time.

On May 14, Colombia play the United States in a full international in the Joe Robbie Stadium in Miami.

It's a tour prelude — and an opening night which England's manager might consider worth a look.

WORLD CUP 94. . . THE AMERICAN DREAM

THE RISE AND FALL AND RISE AGAIN OF SOCCER STATESIDE

by CLIVE TOYE

the missionary who signed Pele for New York Cosmos

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW by Keir Radnedge

A LOT of people thought that when the NASL collapsed that was the end of soccer in the States. How did you react?
NOTHING could have been further from the truth. The NASL, while it did some erratic and wrong things, also did one thing that was absolutely necessary: it created awareness of the game in the country and established a sound participant base.

All the kids who are now playing in the national team and in the youth team started playing in the 'Pele Years'. The older ones are now growing up and having kids of their own and as the generations pass so soccer is becoming an integral part of the life of many millions of Americans.

When we started, 21 years ago, there were 150,000 registered players in the entire country. Now there is something like 10 million.

So there's a huge number, many of whom, as they grow older, will become the fans we didn't have.

SO if the NASL was a revolution in American soccer, how do you see the current era?
WHAT we have now is the evolution. We have a base and so the future is absolutely secure. We are now growing as the game would have grown had it been properly organised here 100 years ago.

It wasn't. We started late but we've got there now.

We are starting to produce some reasonable players and starting to produce some reasonable crowds.

It's now just a question of letting the game evolve as it could not do when we had those big false crowds, when they were attracted by Pele and Beckenbauer and by a lot of hoop-la which just could not sustain itself for two reasons: one, there was still not the base of support and, two, because of the incredible number of mistakes in the NASL.

When I went in as President of the NASL in December 1984 — was it that long ago? — I was in there four months when it became obvious to everyone that the only decision to be made was to close the league down.

I put myself out of a job in the process but it was the only decision I could recommend because the League was doing neither itself nor the game any good.

WHAT went wrong with the NASL?
THE crucial point leading towards the extinction of the NASL was made at apparently our highest level of success in 1978 when we expanded.

There were the huge crowds at Giants Stadium. It was all glamourous and exciting and Kissinger and Robert Redford and all the galaxy of stars were suddenly soccer fans and we had six or seven applications for new franchises.

Some of us were totally against expansion. We had six clubs who were doing well, six who were doing OK and six who were not doing so well.

Some of us wanted to concentrate on bringing the 18 we had up to scratch, to consolidate, and others wanted to expand.

The expansionists won the day and we let in six expansionist groups — six new clubs — whose owners were, by and large, attracted by the wrong things.

WHY were their owners attracted by the wrong things?
THEY were attracted only bythe big crowds and the glamour and they had no understanding of the other side of the coin — the fact that we had worked like slaves over the years to get the clubs we had to that point.

Big stadia, spend a lot of money on players and . . . eureka! And then the owners decided they wanted to play indoor as well as outdoor soccer and that led to enormous confusion as well as an impossibility of organising two staffs.

You couldn't be in the play-offs in the soccer season, working like hell to sell tickets and get ready for a championship game, when a month later you were starting an indoor season.

You had no time to sell season tickets, no time to do the marketing. So, suddenly, there was real confusion over the purpose of the league. It was impossible.

THROWING away your money on plane-loads of foreign players was not the answer?
SPENDING on Pele and Beckenbauer was money well spent because they were enormously popular and well-known players but to spend a million bucks on someone nobody had never heard of. . .

I tried never to spend money on players who were just good players but players who would be crowd-pullers.

One of our clubs spent 800,000 dollars on a centre-half. Now who hell spends 800,000 dollars on a centre-half! Good player, but no-one was going to pay money to come and see him play.

So, a lot of money was wasted on foreign players at a time when we should have been diminishing our reliance on them. That influx of new clubs in fact accentuated our reliance on foreign players. We should have been starting to feed more American players into the league.

So, basically, the mistakes were not knowing anything about the work which went into producing a good club, spending too much unnecessary money on unnecessary foreign players and undertaking the indoor-outdoor clash.

Of course, when money didn't bring them success, a number of owners suddenly decided it was the game's fault, not their fault, and therefore they were going to change the game. Let's change offside, all that kind of anti-FIFA stuff. We ended up with a very erratic, irrational league and it just had to go.

SO what is taking its place?
THIS year we're starting the American Soccer League, which is in no way an attempt to copy anything which has gone before or to emulate any other professional league in any other sport.

We think it is the right sort the league for the stage soccer is at in the United States. It will be almost entirely American players, low budget and if 1500 or 3,000 people turn up that's fine.

It starts in April, I'm the chairman of that league and I'm also one of the four owners of the New Jersey club. And in New Jersey we're not playing in Giants Stadium, we're playing in a 9600-seat stadium and once or twice we'll fill it and as long as we remain alive as a league, the league will eventually prosper.

As the game develops, as interest grows, so the league will grow and it's a place for all these American players to play.

It's perfectly logical, rational extension to where the game is now. The high school scene is fantastic, in college it's fantastic. Colleges where soccer was being played on the parking lot ten years ago now have their own soccer stadium.

As of now the next level is this gentle professional league. At the same time, since this league is not big enough to be televised, nor good enough to be televised, in my other capacity as a partner of Mundial Sports Group, we will be promoting a number of big games such as this Marlboro Cup in Miami. We are aiming to amke the connection between visibilty of these events and TV coverage we're getting across the country in English and Spanish, with this league for America.

WILL the league become a high-profile competition?
ONE day the league may replace the need for these tournaments but until such time we will carry on with these high-level tournaments. Noel Lemom, my partner in Mundial Sports Group, is also president of the Fort Lauderdale strikers and his partner in that club is Joe Robbie, who built the new stadium in Miami. Through Mundial Sports Group we recommended Marlboro as sponsors of the World Cup bid so they are sponsoring our four tournaments as well as supporting the World Cup bid.

CAN you tell me about the Founders' Club you've launched?
IT'S open to 94 people for 1994 — all of whom pay 5,000 dollars to be a member. They're not going to get any money out of it but they do get the prestige of involvment. Joe Robbie is No 1 and chairman of the founders' club; Noel Lemon and I are Nos 2 and 3. In just the first week we've sold ten places.

The willingness of people to spend time, effort and money supporting the World Cup bid has increased dramatically over the past month or so. By the time the FIFA inspection team comes here we hope there will be a World Cup task force in place to wine, dine and dazzle them and, more important, to show solid proof of a growing number of people from all sorts of backgrounds — ethnics as well as American — ready to work for the World Cup bid.

HOW is growing American involvement in the game noticeable generally?
YOU can hardly watch an evening's television without seeing two or three commercials which involve a soccer ball or a soccer player. It's now projected as a normal part of American life that the kids get in the back of the station wagon and are taken off to play soccer.

That never used to be the case. Always, in the past, if there were any sport portrayed in a commercial it was American football or baseball or basketball.

Now it's just as common to see soccer. Many advertising agencies' creative directors and the companies who advertise, recognise — possibly involuntarily. subconsciously — that soccer is being played everywhere they turn. People who direct the commercials are becoming involved with soccer themselves.

There's hardly a community you can go into now without finding soccer fields where there were none 20 years ago and damn few 10 years ago. So there's a whole generation growing up not knowing that soccer's supposed to be a foreign sport.

The next big task is continuing the growth and development in a rationable, reasonable way and turning this huge participant base into a spectator base.

LOOKING back, has it all gone as you expected when you first came out as a soccer missionary?
WHEN I came out here 21 years ago it was for two years of fun and experience after which I intended to go home to Britain. I was fed up with covering sport at the time. I'd been on the Daily Express about seven years, covering World Cups and all that kind of stuff and I just fancied a change. But one thing just led to another — so here I am, still.

There are a number of things which I thought then and how wrong I was.

The first, and anyone coming here from Britain is bound to understand this after a while, is that just because we speak a similar tongue doesn't mean we think the same way.

It would be much easier to understand the United States if people there spoke a different language.

Then you would know, before you came, that you were going into a different culture.

I assumed, as most people do, that there was a far greater degree of similarity than there really is.

The second thing I did wrong was not understanding what it needed to turn soccer into a major sport in this country. It took until the third year before a number of us realised that we had to create a base of participation before we could possibly hope to have a base of interest in a professional league.

For two or three years — and this was why we had the later clash inside the NASL — we spent more time building up the game, building up the youth leagues, teaching fathers to be coaches and referees, than we did involved in professional soccer.

The league, in a sense, was only there to provide income for 20 people in each city to be out spreading the gospel.

That was of course, what the federation should have been doing, but the federation at that time, was hopeless and had no money anyway for such projects as well as no concept whatsoever of what was supposed to be done.

I was chairman of the federation development committee some 15 or 16 years ago and we recommended that the USSF set as its principal target the hosting of the World Cup in 1990.

When we took that to the body of the federation we were laughed out of the room. But it was only by setting a goal as high as that that you could hope to even get up the first rung of the ladder.

SO, in fact, the current World Cup bid would suggest you are only four years behind schedule?
NOT only that, but the climate of belief is that we can get it and make it highly successful. But even back in 1969-70 a number of us were thinking that it would be 20 years or more before we would get to such a point of success.

Now what interrupted that path was the expanion and disaster of the NASL. We were sidetracked. Owners like Lamar Hunt, who were in it from the start and were part of the group who developed the game, were in the end brushed aside and left the league because of these aberrations which occurred when we expanded and went off in two adventurous directions.

So now we're back on the rails but probably five years behind where we should have been. That was what spoiled us: success.

The new league may fail, but those will be failures of individuals, not the game. It's no comfort for anyone involved to think of another failure but, in the long term, it isn't important. The weight of interest is coming through from below as the years advance and as kids move from being players to becoming administrators. This rather pleasing sort of rising damp is coming right through the fabric of the society of the country. Our job is to stay on the straight and narrow and accelerate that rate of growth wherever we can.

SOCCER is still fighting, isn't it, for any serious media coverage?
WE had a media mass in the past who were totally out of sympathy with soccer to the point of outright hostility. That is not being paranoid, that is absolute fact — because soccer was a silly foreign sport. It was an "unAmerican activity."

Those who did cover the sport were rare. You used to look in the press box and almost everyone there was funder the age of 25. No experienced guys, no senior people. It was: "we've got this office junior, send them to cover the goddam' soccer." You still find a lot of young Americans reporting soccer. But they're reporting soccer having played it at school. It isn't to them the dogsbody job — it's "hey I'm covering soccer." And you've got a few sports editors who like soccer, too, now.

You see the same phenomenon in commercial companies. I was having lunch recently with the vice-president of marketing of a giant American corporation who was interested in sponsoring some soccer. I started talking to the guy on a very basic level about the game. But suddenly we found ourselves immersed in a detailed discussion about the differing styles of South American and European football — because this guy played soccer at some university on the west coast and is a soccer fanatic.

ISN'T that an exaggeration?
NO exaggeration. Nor is it, to be fair, saying that football is ever going to die. But we are no longer the outsider. Take someone like Marlboro. Major companies in the US do not put their money into frivolous situations. Noel Lemon and I formed Mundial Sports Group 18 months ago because we saw the need to do the kind of things we are doing to benefit soccer (as well, of course, as make a living!).

We went to a lot of companies and finally got a bite from Marlboro. They sponsored the Miami Cup last year, which was staged at the Orange Bowl. On the Saturday morning before the two sets of games we sat down with their top brass, at their request, and they said: "This is fanastic, we want a programme rolled out next next year which includes four or five cities."

It took a long time to negotiate, but they had put their little toe in to see what the water was like and then dived in very quickly. Procter and Gamble, Miller Beer, Metropolitan Life, Budweiser Beer, are all involved in soccer sponsorship at one level or another.

Look at Metlife. They sponsor college soccer but became involved at the Miami Cup because the national team is made up largely of college players. There's that extension. Once they were college players, now they're national team players. Metlife are also sponsoring my club in New Jersey because we are going to be the next stage — we are using some of those college players as professionals, Metlife says: "If we were in when they were college players and when they were national team players we want to follow it through. They're hooked. So everywhere you look are companies fighting with us to see if they can give us their money."

WORLD CUP 94. . . THE AMERICAN DREAM

WHY FIFA MUST VOTE TO GO WEST

by PAUL STIEHL

the United States World Cup Director Exclusive interview by Keir Radnedge

How do you see your own bid for the 1994 World Cup?
THE bid is going extremely well. We are very confident. We submitted a bid which is as close to perfect as it can be. It was exact, to the point, no bluff, no smoke — it was precise and exactly to the terms of reference. It met all of the requirements without exception. We know we have the technical infrastructure in the US without a doubt. Nothing missing. And the US has a history of having staged major events. We know the talent is available to pull this off.

We also recognise that the corporate world is around us much more in the US than in the rest of the world and from that, we will be drawing quite a bit of talent and support. We are in the driving seat.

What is your own background in the game?
I WAS born in Germany, near Cologne, and I was eight-years-old when I came over. I was raised in New York City and played soccer in the German-American League. I started at centre forward, went to the right wing, then half back in first year college. I went to the University of Maryland — national championships in 1968 — went to right half, right full back, left full back, then left half and even goal. The only place I've never played is left wing!

I graduated in 1971, stayed in the Maryland area and began getting involved in local soccer. In those days, there was no youth programme to speak of. It was mostly inner-city operations and I became very involved in the Baltimore-Washington corridor. First we started a team in the Washington DC league. That didn't work out. So we started a league between Baltimore and Washington the next year and in three years, we grew to 155 teams.

I ran that league for about five years, then I ran the state association for five years, and then I got a little bit worried. It had become a bit of a maintenance job and I don't thrive on those sort of situations. I like a challenge. I like to set a target and go for it.

A lot of people tell me I set almost unrealistic goals at times and are then surprised when we actually make it. So I got involved on the federation level after Werner Fricker was elected president in 1984, became a member of the finance committee, then the federation's first budget director, became treasurer in 1986 — and the rest is history.

And your professional background?
FROM the professional point of view, my background is college education based on finance management. I'm a degreed accountant. I worked as an accountant for two years then I began working for Amtrack, the national railway corporation, in management and administration.

We went from a three-million dollar budget to a 30 million dollar budget during my time in the job. We were the ones who came up with the first national reservation system, which was the most unique system on the planet at the time because the rail system is so huge due to the size of the country — a train leaving Washington DC on Monday is a Thursday train by the time it gets to Los Angeles. It was a very exciting time. Again, this was something new and it suits my personality, I think, to be around when something is new. When it's old, I'm not interested anymore.

How long did you stay with Amtrack?
AFTER five years, I had had enough. I didn't enjoy the corporate structure environment any more and I went on my own. I became an entrepreneur, I guess. I became the owner of two franchised automotive repair shops. That may seem quite a big change. But it didn't make any difference to me whether it was an automotive repair shop or an ice cream parlour or a computer software development company. All businesses are run in basically the same way. I was — in my own terminoligy — very successful. But I got tired of it. Seven years later, I needed to do something else and I ventured into business brokerage and enjoyed that for about three years. But that got to be old hat after a while. Then this opportunity presented itself.

To get the World Cup for the United States?
AT the back of my mind, I guess it was always there. It's the dream of a lifetime. I would do this for free. I think most of us would kill to get to it. Not to make it sound corny but it's an opportunity for me, like all the immigrants who have come here over the years to bring to the United States something I've loved all my life, that I would die for — and probably will some day if my wife doesn't kill me over it first!

I was there when we moved soccer from the cities out to the suburbs in the mid-seventies and the ultimate would be to bring the World Cup.

That's a full-time job for you?
MORE than that! There are times when I can't sleep because I've got so many things racing through my mind about it. I get up in the middle of the night and start writing it down.

If I'd written a scenario for myself, I couldn't have written it any better way. This operation will dwarf the Olympics.

Now, Americans know about the Olympics because they know about amateur sports. They put them on a pedestal but they don't really understand soccer so much. But they do know that it's a world premier attraction. It's going to be the thing to do: The Happening. Like going to the Phantom of the Opera. To be able to say: "I was there at such-and-such a stadium for the World Cup game."

Many people believe the American public will respond not out of any particular interest in soccer but because Americans consider themselves a Big Event public. Is that how you see it?
YES, the American public is a big event public. And this is a doubly big event. It's the most exciting time in our soccer history. This is our federation's 75th anniversary and it couldn't come at a better time. There are more than 150 federations in the world who would give their right arms to be able to stage the World Cup.

For too long, we have been in the background. The whole country is full of immigrants yet the game here has never really caught on. It was centred on the ethnic communities and then it became inner-city concentrated. Then we didn't have enough fields anymore. That's why the games had to go out to the white collar suburbs where the parents had the space for their kids to play on. That's when it started to catch on.

The first generation started playing around the 1970s as kids. By 1980, the second generation had started playing because that's when the first generation became parents. They had been coached — but the coaches of the first generation had no idea what they were doing. But the kids had played for ten years and learned something. Now they are coaching the second generation.

Then, when the third generation comes along, that's when we will have players with the right mental qualities. Physically, we can run with the best. But it's the technique, the mental toughness we're working towards right now.

Many outsiders still think of soccer in the US in terms of the showbiz image of the North American Soccer League. Is that a disadvantage?
THE NASL served a purpose. It was right in the middle of the time when all the kids became involved because they were able to watch something. And because people are so thirsty for good games now, I would not be surprised if we came as close as possible to selling out every game if we get the World Cup. And I'm serious.

Think about the Minnesotas of the world. There hasn't been a game there in years but all those kids play out there. What happens if there's a World Cup game there? It doesn't matter if it's Zaire against Mozambique. It'll be: "Get me in there — it'll be better than anything I've ever seen before." On that basis, I think we're going to have tremendous crowds.

Can you overcome the problem of preparing grass pitches?
WE can put grass pitches on top of the astroturf. We have the technology. When the FIFA inspection team comes, we want to put them together with George Thoma, the turf specialist in Kansas City. He is the tops. You lay the plastic down first, then put dirt on top.

They do it all the time for those motorbike events. They just bring the trucks in, put the soil down with six weeks to the game — or give it eight weeks.

We deliberately avoided all baseball stadia. So we've got literally from the first of January to put the dirt down and let the grass grow. And it takes just two days to take it all up and dump it. So that will keep the American Football teams happy because, when we leave, the carpets will be ready straightaway for them to start training.

You have your stadia tied down already, don't you?
ALL the 18 stadia in our presentation dossier are signed up. Not one stadium has been put in the bid without them having signed a legal document which says they will pay for the renovations necessary to meet FIFA requirements, they will put the grass down and the stadium will be free of advertising.

No-one wants to talk about the venues for the opening game and the Final. Why not?
WE know we have 18 stadia.In fact, we have more because, since December, we've had at least three or four more come to us and say "hey, we're interested". There are others again which we would like to see involved.

As for the opening and Final matches, it's so premature at this point. Let's be realistic. No matter where it is, it's a sell-out. If it were on the moon, it would be a sell-out. So the question is, should we use a 60,000, a 70,000 or a 100,000 stadium? Now, the idea is to let the game be viewed by as many people as possible. But is there really a difference between 75,000 and 100,000. I'm not sure. The right stadium? I can't say if it will be Miami or LA. Why not Michigan State? Or the University of Michigan? Thay have 100,000 seats. And Atlanta — which is not part of it. Who knows who will be part of it at that time?

The Italians didn't decide until three years before which stadia they would use — and they're still wrangling over it now. We have stadia which haven't even been built yet. Right now, Baltimore's looking to build a stadium and they're looking for the excuse to build it. If they build a stadium with 75,000 seats, why not consider that for the opening game? I believe Chicago's building a new stadium. We could play every game in a different stadium if we wanted.

Do you know anything about your 1994 rivals Brazil and Morocco?
I ONLY know what I read in the papers from time to time. But I cannot afford to let my actions be dictated by what they do. As far as I'm concerned, whatever they do — that's nice. But this is what we're doing. Their situation is totally different from mine.

LOSING BATTLE FOR BRAZIL

BRIAN HOMEWOOD in Rio de Janeiro

They have problems; we have problems. For example, we have laws in this country which no other country has. We have to do things in a certain way. We have to get government guarantees to let everybody in. The federation of the organising committee cannot give those. It needs specific governmental approval. In Italy, the government is part of the organising committee. It's so simple there. But. . .the things we've had to go through!

What will the World Cup do for soccer in the United States?
WE fully expect the World Cup to be the shot in the arm soccer here needs to bring it up to a par with the other major sports.

We will not have a professional league of the same sort of dollar value as American Football or baseball but by the time we get done with the World Cup in 1994, soccer here will never be the same.

It will be at a level where we can compete. We will have a national league running, we will be developing our own players to the tune of what everyone else is doing worldwide.

It will give us the media attention. As we've said, Americans are a big event public and so the media will focus on that. That's one of the reasons why we want the World Cup. Yes, there's going to be money made. No question. Soccer's a big money game. It's a big business.

But our biggest goal is for the World Cup to give the game the big push forward — to make the difference between going on for another ten or 20 years at the rate we're going, although we've made tremendous strides in the last few years. That ultimate push, over the edge, that's what we're going to get from the World Cup.

Isn't the low profile of the US national team a disadvantage? It's generally believed that World Cup hosts need a reasonably good team to carry along its domestic public for the Finals.
I DON'T think in our case that it matters whether our team is successful or not, although we would obviously want that. In the LA Olympics, the US went out in the first round but look at the last four games of the tournament — the two semi-finals, the third place match and the Final drew a total of 380,000 spectators. That was nothing to do with whether we were in or out.

It was the 'in thing' to be at. That's what the name of the game was then and that's what it will be in 1994.

Of course, we'd love to do well but we have to be realistic. We're not playing CONCACAF teams — not that there's anything wrong with CONCACAF teams! But all I'm saying is that we're talking about a different level of competition.

BRAZILIANS admit that their prospects of securing the right to host the 1994 World Cup may not be quite as bright as they should.

On the face of it, they seem incapable of organising their own tournaments, let alone international ones.

The goings-on at the CBF headquarters would make a good soap opera, what with boardroom punch-ups, the rules of competitions seemingly being made up as they go along, and the Final of the 1986 Championship being played in 1987.

FIFA president Joao Havelange has been quoted as saying that all this mucking around has given the Brazilian game a bad image abroad — and he's right.

The economy is in a shambolic state with inflation running at 372 per cent annually, a massive foreign debt and most people struggling to live on wages of £30 a month.

There seems no way the country can afford a competition which could cost upwards of £200 million to hold.

Even Pele has said that, although he would like to see Brazil host the tournament, he does not think it is up to it economically at the moment.

Meanwhile, crime and violence continue to escalate at an alarming rate.With 16 murders a day in Rio de Janeiro alone, it seems a bit like trying to hold the World Cup in Beirut.

Decide

Yet Brazilian officials remain confident that their country has a strong case. And the president of the CBF, Dr Otavio Pinto Guimaraes, did not seem even the slightest bit worried about the comments of Pele and Havelange.

"Pele is on the side of the Americans and Havelange is not on the committee which will decide," he told *World Soccer*.

Manoel Turbino, chairman of the country's National Sports Council (CND) and representative of the government, even went so far as to claim that Brazil is the only serious candidate for the World Cup.

The Brazilians believe they have four things which make their country the ideal site.

Firstly, they claim to have the best range of stadia on offer. The CBF plans to use 12 stadia, of which five have capacities of over 100,000.

In contrast, the biggest stadium in Italy, which is to host the 1990 competition, holds 85,000.

Another point to which Dr Guimaraes attaches great importance is that all of Brazil's stadia are designed specifically for football.

"Morocco does not have the stadia, and all those in America are used for baseball and American Football," he claimed.

The CBF intends to use the following stadia: Maracana in Rio (capacity 160,000); Minerao, Belo Horizonte (130,000); Serra Dourada, Goiania (75,000); Morumbi, Sao Paulo (149,560); Pinherao, Curitiba (70,000); Olimpico, Porto Alegre (100,500); Beira Rio, Porto Alegre (83,000); Octavio Mangabera, Salvador (90,000); Arrudao, Recife (94,000); Castelo Branco, Natal (56,320); Placido Castelo, Fortaleza (130,000); and Mane Garrincha, Brasilia (66,100).

Hotels

The CBF also claims to be in a good position regarding hotels and communications.

Hugo Fernandes, spokesman for Dr Guimaraes, said there were enough hotels already and no work needed to be done.

"We have very good hotels in all the centres and there will be room for everybody," he told *World Soccer*.

His claim is backed up by Brazil's hotel trade. According to the president of the Brazilian hotel industry association, Julio Serson, there are currently 300,000 hotel beds in the country and the number will have risen to 420,000 by 1994.

The Cup will be played in June and July which is the Brazilian "off" season.

The association has just started a campaign to support Brazil's claim for the Cup.

A FIFA delegation visited the country in January to inspect the facilities.

Five men made up the delegation — Horst Schmidt from West Germany, Ernie Walker from Scotland, Agustin Dominguez of Spain and FIFA officials Walter Gagg and Guido Tognoni.

Although the delegation did not give too much away about what they thought, the impression was that they generally considered the stadia good, with the privately-owned ones being in better condition than state ones.

There were not thought to be any problems with the hotels and all the cities were judged to have good category hotels.

The telecommunications network was considered acceptable although it may need some improvement before the World Cup.

The delegation were reportedly impressed by the enthusiasm shown by the local press and people for the Cup and the country's possibilities were thought to be good.

Gagg said that everything which needed to be done could be done within the next six years.

The delegates were especially impressed with the stadia in Belo Horizonte, Natal, Goiania and the Beira Rio in Porto Alegre.

Even the locals in Belo Horizonte were surprised at the approval given, with Schmidt saying he was impressed with the size and capacity of the place.

The Salvador stadium, meanwhile, was described as better than many similar stadia in Europe.

The area in which a lot of work is still to be done is in press facilities in the stadiums. Virtually all the grounds need improvements in this respect.

The famous Maracana is one of the stadiums requiring the most work, with seven demands being made: a bus terminal outside with a direct service to the hotels (at present, only a couple of routes start outside the ground so that buses are jam-packed after games with people even hanging onto the outside of the vehicles!); numbered seats; parking for 1500 cars outside; 1,000 places in the 'Royal Box'; room for 1,700 reporters (438 at present); 135 TV and radio cabins (currently 28); and room for 500 photographers near the pitch.

Similar work to improve facilities for the media will have to be done nearly everywhere else and the same applies to the 'Royal Boxes', though it is difficult to see why FIFA need room for 1,000 people there.

Fernandes admitted that there was a lot of work to be done but he said that it was just the same everywhere else.

"What FIFA demands is very high, especially with regard to the press facilities. Probably no country in the world has what FIFA wants," he said.

"Italy are still working on their stadia and they have only two years left."

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ENGLAND by Derick Allsop

Liverpool fall at the last hurdle. . .

LIVERPOOL will have to take a back seat when the first of the major English competitions is decided at Wembley on April 24.

Arsenal and Luton Town will contest the Littlewoods Cup Final, Liverpool having been eliminated much earlier in the tournament by Everton.

And it was Everton who ended Liverpool's record-equalling 29 match unbeaten start to the Football League campaign.

After a midweek 1-1 draw with Derby County at the Baseball Ground, the champions-elect found themselves tied with Leeds United for the longest undefeated opening spell in the First Division.

And where better to break the record than at Goodison, home of arch-rivals Everton? But their Merseyside neighbours spoilt the party . . . and, as hosts, why not?

A first half goal from Wayne Clarke, whose older brother Allan was a member of the Leeds United team which set the record 14 years ago, settled the issue.

Liverpool, missing the injured John Aldridge and Ronnie Whelan, had most of the play but created few chances.

Everton hung on to deny Liverpool and while the result will have little bearing on the actual championship race, it was some consolation for Colin Harvey's team after being knocked out of the FA Cup by the Reds.

Everton's own efforts to reach the Littlewoods Cup Final came to nought after Trevor Steven missed a late penalty in the semi-final, first leg, tie against Arsenal.

A splendidly struck 11th minute goal by Perry Groves, the player who made such an impact in last year's triumph over Liverpool, gave Arsenal a 1-0 advantage.

"Football can kick you in the teeth," said Steven ruefully, "but we've got another chance. Hopefully we can put it right in the second leg at Highbury."

They could not. Despite another missed penalty, this time by Arsenal's Martin Hayes, Everton were dismantled by a vibrant Gunners performance after the break.

Michael Thomas gave Arsenal the lead on the night, Adrian Heath equalisedbut the pace of Groves and the finishing of David Rocastle sealed their fate. Alan Smith released any lingering doubts with a late goal and Arsenal were through 4-1 on aggregate.

Manager George Graham said: "What gives me the greatest satisfaction is to have beaten one of the Mersey sides so convincingly. So much for lucky Arsenal."

Luton Town, meanwhile beat Oxford United 3-1 on aggregate.

Luton emerged from the away leg with a 1-1 draw and took control on their own plastic pitch.

Goals from Brian Stein and Ashley Grimes confirmed their superiority and long before the end, Kenilworth Road was reverberating to the celebration of the club's first Wembley appearance for 29 years.

Incredibly, the Hatters are already guaranteed three trips to North London and could make it four before the end of the season.

They faced Reading in the Simod Cup Final at Wembley and are definite starters in the League Centenary celebrations on April 16.

And there could be another after their success over Alan Ball's Portsmouth in the Sixth Round of the FA Cup.

Luton will meet Wimbledon in the semi-final but face a difficult match against the South London side, who have produced a string of shocks since being elected to the Football League only 11 years ago.

Wimbledon — who were in the Fourth Division just five years ago — have accounted for West Bromwich Albion, Mansfield Town, Newcastle United and Watford on their way to the semis.

The other semi-final sees Brian Clough's Wembley dream with Nottingham Forest resting on a showdown with Liverpool.

Forest disposed of Arsenal in the Sixth Round after the club's board had refused refused Clough permission to take on a part-time job in charge of Wales.

Despite suggestions that the Forest decision might lead to Clough's resignation, he said: "I'd be barmy to turn my back on what we have achieved here."

What Clough hasn't achieved at Forest — or at any other club, for that matter — is FA Cup success.

But he has a talented young side and this just might be the controversial manager's year.

Inevitably though, the favourites are Liverpool. The runaway league leaders avenged their Littlewoods Cup defeat against Everton by winning 1-0 at Goodison Park in the Fifth Round and then slaughtered a young Manchester City side at Maine Road to cruise into the semi-finals.

But while Liverpool have the championship virtually sewn-up and the prospect of an FA Cup Final appearance to look forward to, more attention is currently being focussed on the fight to avoid relegation.

Watford's cup run belied their league form and they are facing a desperate run-in as they bid to claw back an 11-point gap which separetes them from safety at present.

Charlton Athletic — who have announced their intention to return to their former home at the Valley next season — have suddenly found form with successive wins against West Ham and Southampton.

And that has piled more agony on for troubled Chelsea, who find themselves being sucked closer to the relegation trapdoor with each passing week.

Without a win since October, the Blues somehow contrived to squander a 3-0 lead in a 4-4 thriller at Oxford which ultimately proved to be John Hollins' final match in charge.

Chelsea sacked Hollins to end weeks of speculation over his future, with newly-installed coach Bobby Campbell receiving instant promotion to the hotseat.

Aston Villa and Blackburn Rovers remain favourites to take the two promotion places from Division Two but, at the other end of the Barclays League, spare a thought for debt-ridden Newport County.

Bottom of Division Four and certainties for relegation to the GM Vauxhall Conference, the Welsh side faced closure last week with the ultimate humiliation of being unable to complete their fixtures.

Newport owe £200,000 and are being sued by the local council. But chairman Tony Worthy has pledged to fight on despite the massive odds against the club surviving and is hopeful that County will, at least, see out the season.

WOULD any keen youth soccer team refuse the chance to play on a First Division stadium?

Not very likely, is it?

Now an important new competition, limited to 48 teams, offers that very opportunity in the first week in August.

It is based on Littlewood Cup Finalists Luton Town's Kenilworth Road stadium and is called the Hatters Cup. And you're not the football fan you say you are if you don't realise just why it's called that! And there's more . . . Every team entered is guaranteed to play on the club's artificial pitch.

And there's more . . . The Hatters Cup will be much an international affair. Definite bookings have already been received from the United States, Denmark, Republic of Ireland, Sweden, Italy and Brazil. Enquiries from Puerto Rico, Belgium, Iceland and Holland are being handled at the time of writing.

Teams from Czechoslovakia and Portugal have already expressed interest in next year's tournament!

Back to August 1-6, 1988. That's the week of the Hatters Cup. It is being organised by the Bovis Homes Chiltern Youth Football League of Luton. Started in 1953, this is one of the best organisations of its kind in the south of England. It has leagues ranging from Under-11 to Under-18 with over 160 teams in membeship.

The Hatters Cup, which has received both FA and UEFA approval, has six age classes — Under-12, Under-13, Under-14, Under-15, Under-16 and Under-18. For each class, the cut-off date in August 1. To qualify for Under-12, for example, boys must have been born on August 1, 1975, or later.

Planning for the competition started in early 1987 and the marketing, travel and accommodation arrangements are being handled by Travel and Play of Lion House, 6 Wood Street, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK17 8PJ, England (Telephone: 0908 584373).

Now let's get down to the details of how the competition is to be run.

The target is eight teams in each of the six age groups. Each age group will then be divided into two pools of four teams, giving each team thre games. Then the top two from each pool will come together to decide the winner, runner-up and third and fourth places. In each age group the bottom pair from each pool will go into the plate competition to decide places five to eight in the group.

There will be trophies for the tournament and plate winners in each age group with individual medals. Runners-up will win individual medals. Every competitor in all age groups will receive a diploma as a memento of the tournament.

There will be, of course, a whole lot more to the Hatters Cup than the football, important though that is as the main reason for this international get-together. On the agenda are a civic reception, sightseeing and discos.

There are also bonuses in Luton itself. Local bus travel is free for competitors and so are Luton's sports facilities, such as swimming pools and tennis courts.

Accommodation comes in a variety of packages. Basic accommodation will be at Stopsley High School, adjacent to the regional sports centre, and will be Scandinavian style. That means, in simple terms, bring your own sleeping bag and bedding.

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REUSCH NIEDZWIECKI	Y,S,M,L	£27.99
SONDICO FIBREX	S,M,L	£29.95
UHL 092	Y,S,M,L	£29.95
UHL 089	Y,S,M,L	£29.95
UHL 096	Y,S,M,L	£29.95
UHL 015	Y,S,M,L	£30.95
PUMA FLOWERS	S,M,L	£31.95
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JAPAN

YOMIURI beat Mazda 2-0 in the National Stadium, Tokyo, in front of 25,000 fans to retain the Japanese Emperor's Cup.

The final looked like a match between Brazil and Holland, since Yomiuri are led by coach Dino Sanim former Brazilian World Cup star, and Mazda's boss is Dutchman M.J. Oovt.

Also Yomiuri's playmaker is Ruy Gonçalves Ramos Sobrinho, a Brazilian who had played for Yomiuri for a decade, while Mazda's attack relies on Dutch midfielder Ronald Jans.

Dying

The first goal for Yomiuri came from another Brazilian, Jorge Floriano de Toledo, beating Mazda's Dutch goalkeeper, Dirk Havenaar in the dying seconds of the first half. At least the second goal was scored by Yomiuri's Japanese, Torio.

Quarter Finals
Tokyo: Yomiuri F.C. 1-1 Honda
Okayama: Furukawa 1-1 Nissan
Osaka: Sumitomo Metals 0-0 Toshiba
Shizuoka: Mazda S.C. 0-0 Matsushita

Semi-Finals
Kobe: Yomiuri F.C. 0-0 Furukawa
Tokyo: Mazda S.C. 2-1 (aet) Sumitomo Metals

FINAL
Yomiuri F.C. 2-0 Mazda S.C. (Toledo 44, Totsuka 68)
HT: 1-0. Att: 25,000. Ref: Takada Shizuo.
Yomirui: Kikuchi; Matsuik, Kato, Kishino, Tsunami; Mori, Toledo, Ramos; Totsuka (87 min. Miura), Ueshima, Otomo.
Mazda: Havenaar; Nakamura, Matsuda, Shinto, Sato; Sarusawa, Kimura, Orita, Jans; Kobayashi, Imagawa (63 min. Shima).

OTTO MARK 2

by ARTHUR ROTMIL

IN West Germany they call him Otto the Second . . . not because he is a natural successor in some feudal dynasty, but because as a football manager he always comes second.

The talk is of Otto Rehhagel 49, one of the most brilliant coaches who is now leading Werder Bremen hopefully to their first championship title since 1965. Otto II has been with Bremen since 1981 and in that time the club finished three times runners up and three times fifth in the Bundesliga.

But now many experts and fans think that this will be the year of the impulsive star coach at last. Rehhagel enjoys enormous popularity and this is reflected by the fact that he has just been voted the fans' favourite manager.

He polled 48.1 per cent of the votes ahead of Christoph Daum (Köln) with 12.6 per cent, while Jupp Heynckes, the team chief of the champions Bayern Munich and last year's winner was only third on 10.7 per cent.

Rehhagel began his managerial career in 1972 with 1.FC Saarbrücken, then coached Kickers Offenbach (1973-75); Borussia Dortmund (1976-78); Arminia Bielefeld (1978-79) and Fortuna Düsseldorf (1979-80).

With Werder Bremen he has a "special relationship", having been their team boss once briefly between March and June 1976. But now he has become a 'permanent fixture' in the North Sea port city and his contract has until 1990 to run.

Otto II has now convinced the experts and the Bundesliga players that his Werder are championship material. In a recent poll among the Bundesliga pros 201 tipped Bremen for the title, 94 still banked on the defending champions Bayern Munich, while 32 favoured Köln and one optimist predicted that Borussia Mönchengladback will be Meister. One joker even plumped for FC Homburg!

The poll drew replies from 329 out of 360 footballers from the top division, or 91.39 per cent.

Bremen's four point lead at the time, their consistency and marvellous defence, which in the first 18 matches conceded only nine goals, have persuaded the majority to opt for the Werderaner as title favourites.

Only a third of the players still had confidence in Bayern, while Köln appear to be the outsiders for the title race.

In a special interview Otto Rehhagel talked of his problems, hopes and chances of a first major title. Bremen were still engaged in the Cup and the UEFA-Cup, thus "dancing at three weddings" as the Germans say.

You do appear to be frequently at loggerheads with the media?

"They have their job to do, but why do they have to accuse me of being a cheat, or workshy, when we have sweated blood here for seven years?"

Did you believe that Werder would do so well this season?

"I didn't think we would get over the loss of Völler and Pezzey quite so well, but our players have a lot of spirit and determination. And the rejuvenation of the side has gone beyond my expectations. I was banking on young talented players and they didn't let me down."

Is your success an accident, or good planning?

"There are no miracles. Everything is down to long-term preparations. Players like Reck, Sauer, Ordeniwitz, they've all been trained for the first team. The Norwegian Bratseth I signed as replacement for Pezzey; Riedle and Borowka the other newcomers have also made their mark already."

Ordenewitz had to wait three years until he became a regular. How do you keep young players so long in the reserves?

"I use them at first sparingly and they know that this helps them to develop and that they'll get a chance when they're ready. I also encourage them to believe that they soon will be the No.1."

How do you manage to find such highly talented players, like Bratseth, just voted the best foreigner in the Bundesliga?

"I was tipped off by another Norwegian Arne-Larsen Oekland, who played in the Bundesliga and knows what we want. Then I studied Bratseth several times."

What are now your main problems?

"Obviously the heavy programme in three competitions, eight games in March and then many more in a short time."

If you win the title, will you go to a bigger, richer club, possibly abroad?

"If I win the championship I wouldn't leave the club and the team I built, which made it possible. Of course, I have often thought about moving abroad, as a challenge, but there are even more problems than here."

VOLLER . . . departure made no difference

WORLD CUP ROUNDS ARE TOP PRIORITY

CANADA

CANADA are gearing up for their October World Cup qualifying matches against Cuba or Guatemala.

The first stage of preparations, a three game tour of Bermuda designed to give the young players of the 57 man World Cup team pool some international competition, was successful. A 0-0 draw with the Bermuda National team was followed by a 1-0 victory over club side North Shore and a 4-0 rout of the Bermuda League Selects.

Next comes an eight game South American tour, which should provide a tougher test. Three games against the Brazilian clubs Coràtiba, Goiana and Brasilia were being followed by matches against the Peruvian national team and against the Columbian A and B teams. The tour winds up with games in Jamaica on april 5 and 7.

The team return home for the biggest challenge, two matches against the full Mexican national team on April 12 and 14. For national team coach Tony Taylor, these games are the key — "This will be the real test for our young players. If they can hold their own it will give a good indication of where we can go."

The team then break for a month to allow the players to join Canadian Soccer League teams for training camp. They reassemble in late May for a game against Greece and a three team tournament involving Greece and one of either Scotland or Ireland. Then it is back to the Canadian Soccer League until September.

For coach Taylor, the one concern is that the early preparations involve only his young players, many from the Canadian youth team which he coached earlier, who have only limited international exposure.

SAMOA MAKE BOW

by PAUL MOON in Samoa

In view of soccer's widespread popularity and the long established extensiveness of international competition, it seems anomalous that a national side should have made its official debut only this November.

The team in question represented the South Pacific nation of Western Samoa and a little bit of history was made when it met New Zealand at Apia and Auckland in Olympic Games qualifying round encounters.

Western Samoa only gained admission to FIFA last year and formal domestic competitions have been in existence for less than two decades.

At unofficial level, its national team's outings have been confined to regional tournaments — the 1979 and 1983 South Pacific Games and the Mini Games sandwiched between.

Very much the baby amongst the world's administrating bodies the Western Samoa Football (Soccer) Association was formed as recently as 1968 and today the game is only played seriously in the main islands of Upolu and Savai'i.

Originally, soccer's main function was seen merely as a means by which rugby union players could retain fitness during their close season.

In recent years, the round ball code has gained respect as a sport in its own right though rugby's status as the country's senior game is recognised through the words "Football (Soccer)" appearing in the national association's official title. A Western Samoan invariably means rugby union when he refers to "football".

The seasons devoted to soccer, rugby union and the recently introduced rugby league still occupy different portions of the calendar.

Hosted

This is now primarily due to an insufficient number of grounds being available to accommodate all three at the same time. Apia Park, where Western Samoa hosted the All Whites, is the nation's one enclosed stadium.

Whilst not threatening to challenge rugby union's status as national sport, soccer has made a great deal of headway over the past ten years thanks largely to the WSFSA's energy and ambition.

The latter quality is proven by its entry into the Olympic Games Qualifying tournament, despite some truly horrendous maulings during the South Pacific Games and Mini Games. Included amongst these were defeats at the hands of Solomon Islands (12-0), Vanuatu (13-1), New Caledonia (8-0) and Tahiti (13-0).

Somewhat predictably, Western Samoa suffered heavy defeats when meeting New Zealand; succumbing 7-0 at home and 12-0 during the return.

After the latter game, Kiwi coach Kevin Fallon expressed disappointment that his side had not broken the Olympic record set by Denmark when beating France 17-1 back in 1908!

There have been many whom have questioned Samoans' aptitude for soccer; suggesting that they should concentrate upon the more "combative" sports at which they have a remarkably good record for their comparatively small number.

Amongst those whom have excelled at rugby league are Fred Ah Koi, Mark Elia, Olsen Filipaina and James Leulaui; their rugby union playing compatriots include such notables as Bryan Williams, Michael Jones, Joe Stanley and John Schuster whilst the most distinguished of the many Samoans to make their marks in amateur boxing is Commonwealth Games heavyweight gold medallist Jimmy Peau.

All of them, however, nurtured their sporting gifts in New Zealand. Due to the social conditions and lack of facilities at home, Samoans remaining in their native land have much less chance of fully developing any athletic talents they possess than those moving overseas.

The fact that amongst the small number of Samoans playing soccer, in comparison to rugby, a handful have graduated into the Air New Zealand National Soccer League (one, Colin Tuua, became an All White in 1983) destroys any theories about their lack of natural prowess.

The major problems faced by soccer in the first fully independent Polynesian state are a lack of adequate training facilities and sparse international contact. Hopefully, FIFA membership will serve to reduce both in time.

The WSFSAs officials, all admirably enthusiastic and efficient, appear capable of making the most of any aid offered them.

They are eager to point out that their participation in the Olympic soccer tournament contrasts sharply with the International Rugby Board's decision not to invite Western Samoa to compete in the inaugural World Rugby Cup staged earlier this year.

After the Auckland fixture, the Western Samoan squad stayed in New Zealand for a month; playing against club and representative sides and attending training sessions conducted by prominent local coaches.

This should enable them to be fully prepared for the second stage of their Olympic campaign — a play off game in Australia against Taiwan for the right to meet Australia, New Zealand and Israel in a tournament that will determine Oceania's standard bearers in Seoul.

The Samoans are realistic enough to accept that many years of hard work lies ahead of them before they can contemplate appearing in the finals of an Olympic Tournament or World Cup.

In the meantime they are happy to have secured a place in the international soccer community and have at least gained popularity with the legions of metal lapel badge collectors around the world, for the WSFSA's colourful emblem is amongst the most attractive of those produced by the national associations.

AFRICAN NOTEBOOK

TOP THREE CRASH OUT

THE unpredictable nature of African football was further emphasised on the final round of the African qualifying competiton for the Olympic Games in Seoul, when all three fancied nations were beaten and Nigeria, Tunisia and Zambia qualified for the trip to Asia.

Tunisia beat Morocco 3-2 on aggregate to rehabilitate themselves after their poor performance at last August's All-Africa Games in Kenya, while star-studded Algeria were downed 2-1 on aggregate by Nigeria.

And Zambia ended a run of recent poor form with a 2-1 victory over Ghana in their two-legged tie.

Ironically, only Nigeria played in this year's African Nations Cup finals in Morocco, again proving the so-called favoured nations of the continent are not exempt from being humbled.

Tunisia's 1-0 first leg win over Morocco in Tunis was not unexpected, but their fighting performance in the return in Rabat came against all expectation, especially after the Tunisians finished last in the eight-nation All-Africa Games finals with a series of poor results which led to the firing of French coach Jean Vincent.

Veteran tarke Dhiab, the only survivor of Tunisia's squad at the 1978 World Cup finals in Argentina, scored the first leg's only goal in the 15th minute.

But Morocco were without two key players, Mustapha El Had daoui and Aziz Bouderbala, both in the same clinic in France for treatment of injuries.

In the return, it took just 14 minutes for Tunisia to seal their passage, with Moroccan defender Jilal Fadel deflecting a shot by Lofti Al-Rouissi into his own net and giving the visitors a vital away goal.

Morocco needed at least three goals from then on in to ensure a place in Seoul, and it looked on the cards after half an hour when both Abderrazek Khairi (24th minute) and Merry Krimau (30th minute) scored to put the hosts 2-1 up.

But after Labd Khalifa got his marching orders in the 73rd minute, it was an uphill struggle and Dhiab made the tie safe for Tunisia with a last minute goal.

Algeria, without African Footballer of the Year Rabah Madjer who had torn a muscle playing for Spanish club Valencia the week before, could only score a solitary goal in their leg tie against Nigeria in Annaba, through Cherif Oudjani. It was to prove costly as the National Egales rallied in Enugu in the second leg — the match had been moved from Idaban because of a poor pitch at the original venue — and clinched the tie in extra time.

In the 30th minute Ademola Adeshina equalised the aggregate score and there were but three minutes left of extra time — and the dreaded penalty shootout looming — when substitute Henry Nwosu made it safe for the hosts.

Zambia put themselves on the road to Seoul with a 2-0 win in the first leg against Ghana in Lusaka in their first leg.

After a goalless first half, in which Ghana's Opoku Nti missed the best chance from a free kick, the hosts came into their own with Wisdom Chansa opening the scoring with a scorching shot from Charles Musonda's pass.

The Kenneth Kaunda XI, as Zambia are popularly known, fielded four European-based professionals and it was 24-year-old Kalusha Bwalya who increased the tally in the 73red minute.

On their way to the second leg in Accra, the aircraft carrying the Zambian team strayed in Zairean airspace and was ordered to land in Kinshasa. The plane was thoroughly searched and the squad detained overnight, before they were allowed to resume their flight to Ghana.

But, it seemed there were few ill effects for the Zambians, who lost by a lone goal scored by Anthony Yeboah in the 17th minute.

Even without Belgian exiles Bwalya (needed by Cercle Bruges for an important league game) and Musonda (injured), Zambia gave a good account of themselves in front of a hostile 60,000 crowd and qualified 2-1 on aggregate.

RABAH MADJER, the charasmatic Algerian international who is soon to join Bayern Munich, was, as expected, crowned African Footballer of the Year for 1987.

Madjer, who has won 68 caps for his country and represented them at two World Cup finals, was given an overwhelmed vote by the panel of judges, co-ordinated by Radio France International and the French magazine *France Football.*

The 29-year-old was cited for his role in helping Portuguese club PC Porto clinch both the European Cup and the World Club Championship last year and received 130 votes, more than double that of his nearest rival.

Madjer, who fell out with Porto and has been on loan to Spanish club Valencia prior to his off-season move to West Germany, is the second Algerian to win the Ballon d'Or after international team mate Lakhdra Belloumi, winner in 1981.

Second place went to Ivorian Youssouf Fofana, who plays along side English stars Mark Hateley and Glenn Hoddle at Monaco in the French First Division, while another African professional in France, Francois Omam-Biyick (Laval and Cameroun), came in third.

Two players from African Champions Cup winners Al Ahly — Masdi Abdelshani and Taher Adou Zeid — followed in fourth and fifth spots respectively.

The 1986 winener Badou Zaki of Morocco, finished in 11th spot, one below Roger Mills of Cameroun, who won the award in 1976.

Other former winners also in the running included Tarak Dhiab of Tunisia, Karim Abdul Razak of Ghana and Egyptian maestro Mahmoud Al Khatib.

Interestingly, of the 68 players in contention, 21 play outside the continent, including 12 of the first 18. Yet, the voting was done by an all-African panel.

1987 African Footballer of the year: 1. Rabah Madjer (Porto and Algeria) 130 votes; 2 Youssouf Fofana (Monaco and Cote d'Ivoire) 63; 3 Francois Omam-Biyick (Laval and Cameroun) 52; 4 Magdi Abdelshani (Al Ahly and Egypt); 5 Taher Abou Zeid (Al Ahly and Egypt) 25; 6 Kennedy Malunga (Cercle Brugge and Malawi) 24; 7 Peter Dawo (Gor Mahia and Kenya) 21; 8 Abedi Pele (Marseille and Ghana) 17; 9 Ambrose Ayoyi (AFC Leopards and Kenya) 15; 10 Roger Milla (Montpelier and Cameroun) 14.

Previous Winners: 1970 Salif Keita (Mali); 1971 Ibrahim Sunday (Ghana); 1972 Cherif Souleymane (Guinea); 1973 Tshimimu Bwanga (Zaire); 1974 Paul Moukila (Congo); 1975 Ahmed Faras (Morocco); 1976 Roger Milla (Cameroun); 1977 Tarak Dhiab (Tunisia); 1978 Karim Abdul Razak (Ghana); 1979 Thomas N'Kono (Cameroun); 1980 Jean Manga Onguene (Cameroun); 1981 Lakhdar Belloumi (Algeria); 1982 Thomas N'Kono (Cameroun); 1983 Mahmoud Al Khatib (Egypt); 1974 Theophile Abega (Cameroun); 1985 Mohamed Timoumi (Morocco); 1986 Badou Zaki (Morocco).

Don't shoot the piano player . . . or the Press photographer.

FROM MARK GLEESWEIL

GARY BAILEY'S comeback . . . back in South Africa with Iwisa Kaiser Chiefs.

FORMER Manchester United goalkeeper, Gary Bailey, who won two full caps for England, has made a successful return to the game less than a year after he was told he would never play again.

The 29-year-old had a 10-year career with Manchester United but was forced to quit in April 1987 after a reoccuring knee injury failed to heal properly.

Bailey twisted his right knee in training with England before the 1986 World Cup finals, and although he went to Mexico, he never really regained his form or fitness after that. Not even two operations in Britain helped the six-footer, whose father Roy played in goal for Ipswich before emigrating to South Africa where Gary was raised.

Now, Bailey is back, and two more operations in Cape Town, at the hospital where the first-ever heart transplant was performed by Dr Chris Barnard, have put him back between the posts.

Bailey is on a year's contract with Kaizer Chiefs, the South African equivalent of Manchester United, and has so far shown none of the ill-effects that cut short his English First Division career.

He was, however, beaten after just 71 seconds of his debut for Chiefs — in a friendly against arch-rivals Orlando Pirates. But Bailey bounced back to help Chiefs reach the semif-inals of the annual pipeopener to the South African season — the BP Top Eight Cup.

Chiefs were eventually beaten 1-0 by Arcadia — only the second goal conceded by Bailey since his return — in their semi-final replay, allowing the Pretoria team through to meet their capital city rivals Mamelodi Sundowns in the two-legged final.

Kenya Breweries won the 12 East and Central African Club Championships in Sudan with a surprise2-0 victory in the final against locals Al Merriekh. Two goals in a five-minute spell midway through the second half settle the issue with Apolo (60th min) and midfield partner Douglas (65th min) nett.

Third place went to El Hilal who beat defnding champions Nakivubo Villa Sports of Uganda on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

GROUP A

Al Merriekh (Sudan) 0 Miembini (Tanzania) 0
Al Merriekh 0 Kenya Breweries (Kenya) 0
Kenya Breweries 3 Express (Uganda) 0
Kenya Breweries 3 Miembini 0
Express 3 Miembini 0
Al Merriekh 1 Express 0

GROUP B

Civo United (Malawi) 2 Nakivubo Sports Villa (Uganda) 0
Young Africans (Tanzania) 5 Red Arrows (Zambia) 3
Al Hilal (Sudan) 2 Young Africans 0
Al Hilal 1 Civo United 0
Al Hilal 1 Nakivubo Villa Sports 0
Red Arrows 3 Civo United 0
Al Hilal v Red Arrows
Nakivubo Villa Sports v Red Arrows
Young Africans v Civo United
SEMIFINALS
THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF
Al Hilal 1 Nakivubo Villa Sports 1 (El Hilal won 5-4 on pens)
FINAL
Al Merriekh 0 Kenya Breweries 2

CAMEROUN'S domination of the annual Central African Customs and Economic Union football championships continued in Ndja mena, Chad, as they again annexed the five-nation title.

Admittedly playing against far inferior opposition, there was never any doubt that the Indomitable Lions were going to win the tournament. Therefore, their sluggish showing against the likes on the host nation, Gabon and minnows Equatorial Guinea was surprising.

Cameroun could only score one against the unfancied Equatorial Guineans in two matches, beating them 1-0 in the first match of Group B and then being held to a goalless draw in the second match. With Congo having sat out this year, there were only two nations in that group and both qualified for the semifinals.

But the Central African Republic were forced to bow out from Group A, but not after having given the more fancied Gabon a shock or two.

Chad beat the CAR 2-1 in the opening match and then went on to hold Gabon 1-1 in the second match of the group. Gabon then had to fight against the CAR to qualify for the semifinals with a 1-1 draw.

In the semifinals, Gabon's luck finally ran out with Cameroun clinching a place in the final with a 1-0 win. Chad convincingly beat Equatorial Guinea 4-0 in the other semi. Cameroun won the final 1-0, in stark contrast to their 4-0 thrashing of Chad in the previous year's final.

GROUP A

Chad 2 Central African Republic 1; Chad 1 Gabon 1; Central African Republic 1 Gabon 1.

GROUP B

Cameroun 1 Equatorial Guinea 0; Cameroun 0 Equatorial Guinea 0.

SEMI FINAL

Chad 4 Equatorial Guinea 0; Cameroun 1 Gabon 0.

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

Equatorial Guinea 0 Gabon 0 (Gabon won 4-3 on pens)

FINAL

Chad 0 Cameroun 1

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SOUTH AMERICA **BY ERIL WEIL**

Easy win for Universidad over Colo Colo

UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA of Santiago easily won the 1987 Chilean First Division championship — four games before the end and by a margin of ten points over city rivals, Colo Colo.

Colo Colo won the traditional four team play-off between the second to fifth placed teams to take the vice-championship and the second place in the Libertadores Cup.

Universidad Catolica's successful season ended with 21 wins, seven draws and two defeats — one of them after clinching the title — in 30 games.

They also scored more goals (51) and had least against (16) of the 16 First Division teams.

It was Universidad Catolica's sixth title, their previous championships being won in 1949, 1954, 1961, 1966 and 1984.

Catolica are one of Chile's big all-sport clubs in which some 20 sports are practised competitively and they have won national championships in several of them.

Their football department is considered to be the best organised in Chile — from their "soccer school" and junior team upwards — especially since Chilean Ignacio Priete took over as coach in 1983 and under whom they won the pre-season championship that year and the First Division title in 1984.

Organisation

Universidad Catolica stood out for their steady play, generally using a 4-4-2 formation with solid defence and intelligent attack but the midfield was their strong point.

Their good organisation allowed them to attack with a lot of men when the opportunity arose.

Centre forward Osvaldo Hurtado, an experienced veteran of 31 who played in Spain for Cadiz the season before, finished as top scorer with 21 goals — followed by Sergio Diaz (Cobreloa) and Sergio Salgado (Cobresal) on 15 — making use of every opportunity to get goals in all sorts of ways.

Catolica boast no foreign stars but can line up ten Chilean senior internationals as well as several junior internationals.

Coach Prieto started his playing career with the club and also won a First Division title with them but later had problems with the board and went to play in Uruguay.

Prieto is religious, straight forward and has a strong character, at times almost aggressive.

When he signs a new contract. one of the clauses is likely to be that the club do not transfer any of the players of the present squad, which it has taken him some time to mould together.

Prieto gives a lot of credit for this to the rest of his coaching squad — Dario Sepulveda, Fernando Carvallo, Leopoldo Vallejos, Victor Adriazela and Oscar Solina — but at the same time, he feels it is not necessary to strengthen the team, not even for the Libertadores Cup.

Prieto also gives all the credit to his players and says that his function is merely that of an "educator".

To the frequent question of whether he considers he should be named national team coach, he answers: "Those in charge of Chilean soccer today do not share my views and I would not get on with them because I speak straight out what I think, sometimes aggressively.

"I do not mind saying that Chilean soccer at the moment is badly organised.

"I don't know what I would do if they offered me the job but I don't think I am on their list of candidates because they know I don't think like them and because I work in a club which is against their 'politics'.

"They have called me before the disciplinary board to stop me speaking out so aggressively and I have been called a traitor to my country because I don't care about the national team but that's not true.

"The day I take on the job of national team coach under the conditions set out by the Chilean FA, I really will consider myself a traitor."

When asked how this season's team compared to that which won the previous title under him in 1984, Prieto said: "I don't like comparisons.

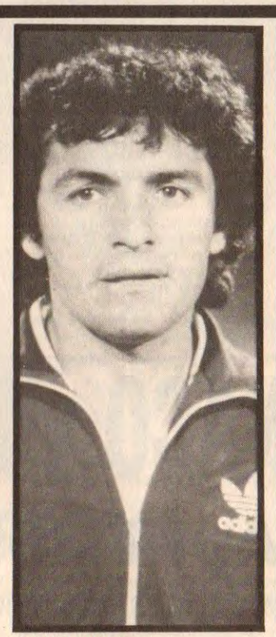
"The 1984 team was good with some excellent players. This season we had a great team, perhaps with some good individual players but what I like most about it is the way it functions and the ease with which it can change its system of playing from one game to the next.

"This has given us excellent results. Both were good teams, but if I had to choose, I would stay with the present team because I had more to do personally with building it."

Unsound

Universidad Catolica are one of the big clubs — together with Colo Colo and Universidad de Chile — who are refusing to play in the 1988 pre-season tournament, which was due to start in mid-March and which they consider financially unsound as it includes First and Second Division teams.

In fact, the three clubs were even talking of forming a breakaway league as has been the case in Brazil.



MIGUEL NEIRA . . . veteran midfielder

The trouble was that this tournament was being organised by the government's sports department (DIGEDER) which also runs the official soccer pools and divides up the proceeds — welcome cash without which Chilean clubs (even the three big ones) could not survive.

Forty clubs were due to take part in the pre-season tournament, split in four groups from which the top two would advance to the quarter final knockout stage.

An interesting innovation was that three points would be awarded to the winners. Draws would be decided by a penalty shoot out with two points going to the winner of this and one to the loser.

Colo Colo and the two U's — the three clubs with the largest followings in Chile — are opposed to current FA president Miguel Nasur, a clever businessman who took over the presidency in 1985 vowing to pull the country's professional soccer out of its debt-riddled existence.

Debts of clubs then were estimated at something in the region of 20 million dollars and Nasur has been quite successful.

At the same time, Chile's international level has also improved as they reached the Final of both the South American and Panamerican Championships last year, as well as finishing fourth in the World Youth Cup.

CHILEAN FIRST DIVISION CHAMPIONS (since 1931): Colo Colo — 15; Universidad de Chile — 7; Universidad Catolica — 6; Union Espanola — 5; Magallanes — 4;Audax Italiano — 4; Everton — 3; Cobreloa — 3; Palestine — 2.
UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA'S SQUAD: Marco Cornez Bravo — goalkeeper, age 30, international since 1979; Fernando Diaz — goalkeeper, 25; Ruben Espinoza Molina — full back, 27, international since 1983; Luis Abarca Aravena — central defender, 22, junior international; Alex Martinez — full back, 28, international since 1984; Eduardo Vilches — central defender/half, 26; Miguel Neira — midfield, 33; Rodrigo Astudillo — midfield, 23; Mario Lepe Gonzalez — midfield, 22, international since 1983; Patricio Mardones Diaz — midfield, 25, international since 1987, junior 1981; Jorge Munoz — forward, 26, international since 1985; Lukas Tudor Bakulio — forward, 18, junior international since 1987; Andres Romero — forward, 20; Andres Olivares — forward, 20; Francisco Hormann Swett — midfield, 20, international since 1987; Fabian Estay — midfield, 19, junior international since 1987; Luis Perez Ramirez — midfield, 22, international since 1984; Juvenal Olmos Rojas — midfield, 25, international since 1984; Osvaldo Hurtado Galleguillos — forward, 31, international since 1987 (Cornez, Espinoza, Mardones, Olmos and Hurtado played in the 1984 championship-winning team).

BRAZILIAN CLUBS IN COURT BATTLE

from ERIC WEIL

WHILE the 16 major clubs in Brazil played their own version of the National championship last year, the Copa Union which the Brazilian CRF only partly recognised, an official national championship was held between the rest of the clubs whicyh finished in February when Sport beat Guarani 1-0 in the final.

This left the thorny problem of Libertadores Cup representation and the CBF decided that these two clubs would play in a four-team tournament with the two finalists of the Copa Union, Flamengo of Rio de Janeiro and Internacional of Porto Alegre.

Flamengo and Internacional however refused to participate in this tournament and felt they had the right to go into the Libertadores Cup as they were the two top clubs in a championship including the strongest clubs in Brazil.

Flamengo, the Copa Union winners, and Internacional have taken the matter to court and are calling for an investigation into the FA's dealings connected with the mis-handling of funds.

ARGENTINA: Popular Boca Juniors seem to have finally got their act together and are moving up the table again.

The change has been brought about by the signing of a new coach, Omar Pastoriza (ex-Independiente) who replaced Juan Carlos Lorenzo during the mid-summer recess.

Since Pastoriza took over, Boca Juniors have won two and drawn the other two of their National A Division games while also being unbeaten in five summer tournament matches in Mar del Plata, the first of which (the annual Gold Cup) they had won by press time by beating eternal rivals River Plate 1-0 in the vital game.

River Plate meanwhile continue to do poorly having picked up only three points from their four games since the championship restarted and the board, and fans, are getting fed up with coach Carlos Griguol and his more defensive tactics.

It appears that contacts have been made with former Argentine World Cup winning coach, Cesar Menotti — just sacked by Atletico Madrid — and he has said that if he returns to Argentina he would be interested in the River Plate job. To be fair however, Griguol is currently without virtually a whole team due to injuries, suspensions and transfers.

The championship has 15 games to go and is as exciting as last year with the lead continually changing hands between current one-point leaders Newell's Old Boys of Rosario (last season's vice-champions), Racing Club Avellaneda, San Lorenzo and Deportivo Español who were separated by three points at press time.

URUGUAY: Uruguay will not be represented by their first division champions in the Libertadores Cup — not for the first time — due to their unusual qualifying system, the end-of-season "Liguilla' in which clubs obtaining most points during the season take part.

Wanderers won this six-team tournament by beating Nacional 1-0, thanks to their magnificent goalkeeper, Celso Otero, in the last match. Nacional were second and champions Defensor fifth (a point behind).

According to rules, Defensor, as champions, had another chance of gaining a cup place in playoffs against second-placed Nacional. These ended 0-0 and 2-0 for Nacional who thus clinched the place. Peñarol, as cup holders, did not take part in the "Liguilla" as they have automatic entry into the Libertadores Cup which this year will have three Uruguayan representatives.

Peñarol have already transferred goalkeeper Eduardo Pereira, centre-forward Diego Aguirre and defender Obdulio Transante since winning the Libertadores Cup last year as they are in eternal need of cash and their coach and former international striker, Fernando Morena — who took modest River Plate into leading places in the Uruguayan championship last year — is pleading with the club board not to sell any more.

Nacional's new coach, Roberto Fleitas — who coached Uruguay to the South American title last year — meanwhile was in Argentina searching for new players.

An unusual occurence was a strike of coaches in Uruguay to force the FA to name a national team coach from among those who earned their diplomas in the Uruguayan school of coaches. The position had been recently vacated by Fleitas when he was engaged by Nacional.

PERU: Alianza Lima, 16 of whose players were killed in an air crash early in December, returned to "active duty" in the Peruvian first division on January 4 to the cheers of 42,000 fans and with a team made up of a number of veterans and players on loan from other clubs — notably four from Chile's Colo Colo — which just managed to beat Coronel Bolognesi 2-1.

A most notable performance, as midfield organiser, was put up by their former international Teofilo Cubillas who had retired two years ago and now, at 38, returned to help out his old club. Under his excellent direction the team went on to make it five victories in a row which kept them at the top of the table.

Then came two draws — the latter 0-0 against Universitario de Deportes in a poor Lima "derby" — and defeat by 3-2 against Sporting Cristal who took over a two-point lead in the table.

NO WAY through this time for Graziani (Boca Juniors) against Argentine title challengers Racing.

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MEXICO GO TO SEOUL . . . JUST!

MEXICO, one of the countries which under FIFA rules can field its top team with all its World Cup players in the Olympic Games, made it to the finals in Seoul this year, but their final qualifying games against Guatemala were closer than expected.

The first leg in Toluca ended in only a narrow 2-1 win for the home team which played ver poorly except for its World Cup stars Negrete, Luis Flores and Quirarte.

Mexico lacked penetration, but when they finally scored a couple of goals near the end of the first half they finally scored a couple of goals near the end of the first half a goal rush seemed imminent, but it never came. Mexico had little trouble in winning the return game 3-0 in Guatemala City, but local fans and the press blamed it on the Cuban referee, Osvaldo Brea.

In the league America and Cruz Azul, Mexico City's two most popular teams, drew 80,000 spectators to the Azteca stadium to watch their 2-2 draw in the Mexican first division.

America lead group 3 and should reach the quarterfinals into which two teams of each group go, but Cruz Azul, trailing the second in group 2 be seven points, have only an outside chance.

Meanwhile Universidad de Guadalajara, who started the season with 13-games unbeaten, continue to have the best record in the 20-club division and head group 2 by five points.

Mexico had its first doping case early in January when Guadalajara goalkeeper Javier Iedezma's urine sample after a match gave a positive result. The playr was acquitted by the disciplinary comission as he said he had taken medicine prescribed by the team doctor, but his club were fined the equivalent of 450 dollars.

■ DEPORTIVO Aguilar won San Salvador's first division championship for the 10th time with a 1-0 victory over the "Luis Angel Firpo" Club. Aguilar is coached by Chilean Hernan Carrasco Vivanco.

■ WORLD CUP qualifying dates have been fixed by CONCACAF as follows: Guatemala v Cuba — April 30 in Habana and May 15 in Guatemala; Panama v Costa Rica — July 17 in Panama and July 31 in San Jose; Antigua v Dutch Antilles — July 17 in Antigua and July 29 in Dutch West Indies; Puerto Rico v Jamaica — May 29 in Puerto Rico and June 12 in Jamaica; Guyana V Trinidad Tobago — April 19 in Guyana and May 8 in Trinidad Tobago.

■ Mexico and Guatemala are the group heads of the CONCACAF junior tournament starting in Guatemala on April 9. Group 1 is composed of Guatemala, Jamaica, USA, Trinidad Tobago and the winner of Honduras and Costa Rica while group 2 has Mexico, Canada, Cuba, Dutch Antilles and the winner of Bermudas and Belize. The top two of each group qualify for the final round.

■ THE SOUTH American Junior Championship — for players up to 18 and which qualifies three teams for the next world championship of this category to be held in Saudi Arabia — was first due to be held in Paraguay this year, but this country could not hold it due to financial difficulties.

Bolivia had been the reserve venue, but they have two of their main stadiums in La Paz and Cochabamba suspended by FIFA for international matches.

Finally Argentina agreed to organize the tournament from May 2 to 22 and fixtures had already been made when FIFA decided that Israel would take part as far as qualifying for the world championship was concerned (Israel, not being accepted by the Asian zone countries, usually plays world championship qualifying matches in another zone.)

Israel's inclusion was criticised by some of the countries, but new fixtures have now been drawn up. Israel play in group A with Argentina, Peru, Venezuela, Chile and Paraguay while group B is composed of Uruguay, Brazil, Colombia, Bolivia and Ecuador.

DANIEL LOOKS TO

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

WHEN Daniel Brailowsky came on after half-time in that rain-ridden, meaningless friendly in Tel Aviv last February between Israel and England, the game came to life.

Sporadically. On those occasions, to be exact, when Brailowsky received the ball and, making light of the green sponge on which he was playing, bodly used his pace and control, to take on the England defence.

After one such run, indeed, Israel's hapless centre-forward had a fine chance to win the game, but a combination of ineptitude and anxiety caused him hopelessly to miskick, and the game ended without goals.

You would be entitled, if you know anything of the man and his impressive career, why 29-year-old Brailowsky came into the match only when it was half done and why he, a right winger, should have been so perversely deployed on the left.

Were you aware that his orders — disobeyed from time to time — were actually to avoid crossing over to the right, you might be more puzzled, still.

The answer lies in the prolix tactical schemes of Milienko Mihic, Israel's much criticised Yugoslav manager.

Mihic knew that Frank Arok, the manager of Australia, whom Israel were due to meet in the Olympic tournament, would be watching the game.

"You are our trump card," he told a baffled and unimpressed Brailowsky. Hence, the attempt to "camouflage" Israel's strategy, and their star.

Or one of their stars. The two others were both unavailable, since their Belgian clubs refused to release them.

Eli Ohana has beeen having a splendid season for Mechelen, in championship and Europe alike, while Roni Rosenthal has done very well for Brugge.

These three players don't necessarily fit well together in the Israeli team; Brailowsky has been accused of being too much of an individualist.

But then, he is quintessentially a Latin American player, whose long and exhaustive experience has been almost wholly in those regions.

A gentle, good looking, modest young man with dark, curly hair and large blue eyes, appearing less than his 29 years, Brailowsky was born in Buenos Aires, but was actually brought to Israel by his parents at the age of three and a half.

He stayed for three years, then back they all went to Buenos Aires. He would return to Israel only as a mature footballer.

When he was 17, he told me, an uncle arranged for him to have a trial with Penarol, of Montevideo, where the uncle lived. Brailowsky was destined for a junior side, but promptly scored three goals for the reserves against the first team, was signed on, and stayed for three years.

Then it was back to Argentina to play for All Boys, then for the better known Independiente.

Brailowsky did well there; he played a number of games for Argentina, but never against a full international side. Thus he was able to go to Israel knowing he could win international caps.

It was this, he said, which made him decide to go there at all.

After Independiente, it was off to Mexico City, to join the America club.

"It was a very good opportunity to go and earn money, and live there with my wife, because I had just been married," says Brailowsky.

He was happy as a bee in Mexico, where he stayed for three years. But when the earthquake struck the city in 1985, Brailowsky's wife was pregnant.

He immediately took her back to Buenos Aires; to the anger of America FC. They took a petty revenge, seeing to it that he was suspended, virtually immobilised, playing no football for a year.

It was then that he decided to accept an offer from the Maccabi Haifa club. There, he has been extremely well paid, though it has not been easy to fit into the very different Israeili game, even though he now speaks excellent fluent Hebrew.

He admits he misses his family. He had no problems in Argentina

HOLLAND

PSV CLO TO TITL

by Simon Kuper

SOMETIMES this month PSV Eindhoven will win the Dutch championship.

It will be their third successive title. PSV's triumph in the league has become a regular feature of a Dutch spring, like the discovery of the first plover's egg.

The fact is that like Liverpool, PSV are too strong for their league. They should remain champions for the next decade, as they are the only Dutch club who can spend as much money as the top southern European teams.

PSV proved this last month, when they thwarted Barcelona by persuading internationals Ronald Koeman and Gerald Vanenburg to renew their contracts.

At the time of writing PSV are in the European Cup semi-finals and, despite losing their first league match 2-1 to Feyenoord, are eight points ahead of second-placed Ajax.

It is a sign of how weak the Dutch league is, that Ajax are so high in the table while playing badly. The current side has none of the sparkle that is supposed to characterise Ajax.

Ajax have told several players that they can leave, including, it seems, Frank Stapleton and Alistair Dick. Stapleton's nine months at Ajax have been disastrous. He played poorly in the first four matches, was dropped, and then suffered a slipped disc.

He was out for months, and is now playing in the Reserves. Stapleton hopes to return to England.

Good news for Ajax is that they have got Frank Rijkaard off their hands at last. Rykaard, out of action since September after a dispute with Johann Cruyff, has signed with Sporting Lisbon, who have loaned him to Zaragoza for the rest of this season.

Ironically, it seemed likely for a time that Johan Cruyff, Rijkaard's opponent at Ajaz, would also be going to Spain, but recently he announced that he will not be joining Barcelona after all.

Next monthe he will choose one of the more than 20 clubs who have offered him a contract. The most surprising offer Cruyff received was from Heerenveen, a small Dutch club which for decades has failed to gain promotion for the premier division. Cruyff gently declined.

Below Cruyff's old club, Ajax, several teams are battling for third place, which will probably provide qualification for next year's UEFA Cup.

Feyenoord Rotterdam, Twente Enschede, Fortuna Sittard, Willem II Tilburg and VVV Venlo are in the race.

In past years Feyenoord always qualified easily for European football. But they are repidly declining.

When Ruud Gullit trained with Feyenoord for a day, during a recent visit to Holland, manager Rinus Israel joked: "Ruud came to Feyenoord because he wanted to get away from football for a bit."

Sparta, the other Rotterdam club in the premier division, have changed managers. Rob Baan replaced Welshman Barry Hughes.

Baan was scheduled to take over at the end of the season anyway, but with Hughes' consent he assumed control of Sparta immediately. Hughes had admitted himself powerless to motivate the team any longer.

Have Wales considered giving Hughes the national team job? He has been a successful manager in Holland for almost 25 years. His knowledge of Dutch football would be an asset when Wales meet Holland in their World Cup qualifying group.

Sparta won their first match without Hughes 2-1 against Willem II. New manager Baan was able to field two new players, Martin Haar (signed from Haarlem) and Mike Snoei (from Excelsior).

The victory against Willem II means that Sparta can celebrate their 100th birthday this month without having to worry about relegation.

The struggle to avoid the drop involves PEC Zwolle, Groningen, Volendam, AZ Alkmaar and FC Den Haag. DS Dordrecht are so far adrift that they can hardly even be said to be struggling any longer.

PEC seemed safe earlier, but have now started to slide, perhaps dispirited by the news that chairman Marten Eibrink is to stop pumping money into the club.

AZ and Den Haag seemed a few weeks ago to have little chance of staying up — Den Haag chairman De Stoop went so far as to say that relegation might not be a bad thing. However, recent signings may yet save the two clubs.

AZ signed Tom Krommendijk from Wageningen. Krommendijk, one of the bet young players in Holland, marked his debut for his new club with a fabulous match-winning goal. Den Haag bought striker Mick Byrne from Shamrock Rovers. Byrne was Ireland's Player of the Year in 1987.

Groningen, also in danger of relegation, are involved in a unique employment scheme. A local village, where eighty people are unemployed, will pay the club £400 for every inhabitant who gets a job with one of Groningen's sponsors.

TO ENGLAND

as the only Jew in the league, he says; he was treated very well.

With his intelligence, technique and speed, it's clear Brailowsky has several useful years in front of him.

When we spoke, those 40 long days in Australia and New Zealand for the Olympic qualifying tournament Israel were obliged to play, lay ahead.

Brailowsky's ambition to play in an actual Olympic tournament seemed unlikely to be fulfillded; those 40 days made it most unlikely that Israel would be able to muster all their stars.

As for the attempt to hoodwink Arok, he says: "We Israelis have seen a lot of the Australians on video, so they must have seen a lot of us."

At the end of this season, his contract with Maccabi Haifa is up, and he seems likely to be on his travels once again.

Offers have apparently come in from Belgium and France.

Italy would obviously attract him. He would enjoy playing in England, he says, and would not be averse to ending his career here.

"English football is the best in the world," he says. "I'd very much like to play in England."

BRAILOWSKY . . . ignoring tactical trickery.

LOSE TLE

LEE OUT . . . OSASUNA IN TROUBLE

"SAMMY LEE is an important player for us but it's bad that a team should have to rely on one player. Now we have to forget him" — words with more than a touch of desperation from Osasuna's coach Pedro Zabalza, after Lee's injury against Valladolid, writes MICHAEL BUTCHER

The injury to the lateral ligament of the right knee will put the ex-Liverpudlian out for at least six weeks, a fact lamented not only by the player but the fans, too, who have taken Lee to their hearts.

Basque teams are renowned for their 'English' style of play and the arrival of the diminutive Lee added much-needed impulse to a defensive tendency to which Osasuna had fallen prey in recent seasons.

In Spanish terms, Lee is known as the 'midfield motor' and he performs his role to a blueprint perfected by Liverpool in the Shankly days.

The stocky midfielder has made himself virtually irreplaceable at the heart of the Pamplona team.

Ironically, Lee's injury came before the match against Real Madrid but the forceful Navarrese still came through strongly to defeat the league leaders 2-1.

Up front in that match was another player from the English league, Michael Robinson, who with his powerful physique and strong front-running, has created no end of difficulties for Spanish defences.

In short, Osasuna (Basque for 'health') had a distinctive English look — until the health ran out.

Following the defeat of Madrid, Osasuna then had to follow it with a difficult semi-final in the Spanish Cup against Barcelona.

They went out 3-0 on aggregate and it was then that Robinson announced that he would finally be operated on.

The centre forward had been carrying an injury for some time in his right knee and with the team in a relatively safe mid-table position, he decided it was time to act.

The operation in the San Miguel clinic of the Navarrese capital found no ligament damage but a cartilage was taken out.

"It was a straightforward operation and he could be playing inside a month, although six weeks would be more likely," said doctor Ibarra.

In the meantime, though, Zabalza has been without two of his most effective players.

The sole advantage is that they're both foreigners, which meant that Osasuna could look abroad for a likely replacement.

Zabalza is not too optimistic: "We don't want to spend for the sake of it.

Osasuna are in the enviable position of being practically the only club in Spanish football who are in the black and since they are not a rich club either, lavish spending is not something they are prone to.

There is also something else which distinguishes them from the rest of the First Division — they are the only team with five forwards.

Even the giants of Real and Barcelona can't match that, or don't dare to.

With the absence of 'Mikel', the Basques are now on a par with their illustrious opponents.

And without Lee providing the through balls for the attack, Osasuna could finish up close to the relegation zone yet again.

Brian Glanville

MANA MOST

WALES' attempt to make Brian Clough their part time manager put the cat splendidly among the pigeons. How quick were Bobby Robson, Billy Bingham and Mike England, the deposed Welsh manager, to cry that such a task was impossible!

Bingham said he had tried it while at Plymouth Argyle and it hadn't worked. England, though he had technically been reduced to a small salary on what seemed a part-time basis (he runs an old people's home) was just as adamant.

For my own part, the controversy evoked nothing so much as Parkinson's Law according to which, you may remember, work expands to fill the time alloted to it. I was especially amused by Bobby Robson's reaction, his public fusillade, because it occured at the very time when he was putting his England party together for the meaningless — yes, I stick to that word, which seemingly annoyed him so much — friendly against Israel.

Among the supposed tasks of a full time international manager is that of running a constant check on potential members of his team. Looking, in other words, at their form. But on what possible basis "form" could Robson have taken Spurs' Clive Allen to Israel and actually played him there?

Last season, Allen was splendidly prolific, playing with skill, cunning and effect all alone in front of a five man Tottenham midfield. This season, by contrast, has been the bleakest anti-climax. In common with his Tottenham team, Allen has been ineffectual and unconvincing, seldon scoring, clearly unhappy in a new formation which has generally featured two strikers.

Ludicrous

I have no wish to make Allen a scapegoat, but his situation, his choice by Bobby Robson, plainly makes ludicrous the idea that England teams are being picked on "form".

Even the word loyalty, of which the England manager tends to make such play, is scarcely relevant. Apart from a handful of disappointing appearances on England's South American tour of 1984, Allen had played but a single match; another great disappointment, in Izmir last Spring, against Turkey.

So much for the "necessity" of perpetual monitoring of players' form. Of course an international team manager can make an immense amount of so called work for himself. He can swan around the world, watching other international teams; often in friendly matches which will tell him little or nothing.

He can double up with the role of Chief coach, just as Walter Winterbottom did in his long, bland reign as England team manager. Walter indeed used to say that he considered his coaching job the more important of the two, but I don't think Bobby Robson does.

I am not among Brian Clough's idolators. He is, in his own way, a remarkable manager, as he has proved both at Derby and Nottingham Forest, where he has pulled rabbits out of hats and squeezed blood out of stones.

His achievement in winning the European Cup twice with Forest was little short of astonishing. Clough's way of management is an original and somewhat contentious one, but it seems to me to be the very antithesis of Parkinson's Law.

Looking at some of our apparently Stakhanovite international managers, I hear the words of an American song — once sung, if I remember correctly by Bing Crosby, William Bendix and, of all people, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, in the film of A YANK AT THE COURT OF KING ARTHUR.

We're busy doing nothing, working the whole day through,
Trying to find lots of things not to do.

Clough by contrast, is severely economical with his time. You will not find him eternally on the training ground in a tracksuit, any more than you would have found pre-war team manager there.

Peter Shilton in his Forest days, once told me that when Clough and his then sidekick Peter Taylor, did turn up, there was an immediate effect upon proceedings; "attitude training," Shilton called it.

Clough, I believe, has a habit of materialising suddenly in the dressing-room before a match, and only then to galvanise his team.

The only true test of managerial methods, surely, is success, and Clough has had that in abundance. True, Forest may not have won anything for a very long time, but to keep them for so many years in the First Division, to build so many attractive, intelligent, lively sides, with so relatively little money available, is surely a major achievement.

I am not among those who has ever wanted to see Clough made manager of England, agreeing with those who feel that his rule at Forest has been authoritarian, a rule which, in it's turn, means having command of the purse strings. He wouldn't have that with England nor, for that matter, with Wales.

Yet I have a feeling that in the case of Wales, his brusque, overbearing, forceful approach would work; that sudden parachute drops from the blue would give the team the kind of stimulation that it clearly needs, and which it used to get for so long, so long ago, from the incomparable Ted Robbins.

You might call Robbins one of the original international team managers, though of course he never had such a title. He was in fact the much loved and lauded Secretary of the Welsh Football Association who, almost single handed, had bravely won the battle to put football on the map in South Wales. "Get your feet under the table!" he would say to a shy new player. "I'll be your Daddy!"

During this era, Wales rose above themselves superbly and constantly. Just look at the history of the British International Championship between the wars, when it still truly mattered, long before any British team entered a World Cup, let alone a European Championship.

Time and again, Wales either scared the title, or won it outright. In the last international match versus England before the outbreak of the second world war, Wales were the 4-2 victors in Cardiff, when Tommy Lawton, aged 19, made his debut at centre-forward for England.

Robbins was forever pulling off small miracles. At that time, English clubs were not obliged to release their non-English players even for British Championship matches. There was an occasion in the early 1930s when Wales were due to play the mighty Scotland in Edinburgh. Thanks to the intransigence of English clubs, Robbins had to pull in debutants from non-league clubs. Wales still got a 1-1 draw.

Single

England, should one be in a mood for statistics, actually played 74 years without a team manager, without losing at home to any foreign opposition. Tom Whittaker was actually the first man to fill the job I believe, but only for a single Victory international game in Paris against France in May, 1946. He was then the Arsenal trainer, but subsequently as we know became their manager.

Later that year, England appointed Walter Winterbottom as the first full time manager; and head coach. Walter remained in office for 16 years, an indication that the job was that of a civil servant rather than that of a football manager.

There could be no comparison with the achievements of one such as Vittorio Pozzo, who reigned even longer as Commissario Tecnico of the Italian international team. picking up two World Cups on the way.

Amiable, intelligent, theoretical, honest and decent, Winterbottom did not do badly with his England teams, helped by the fact first that he had so many fine players available, secondly that at the beginning, England benefited from FIFA designating the British Championship as a qualifying group. Ah, those happy, indulgent days!

Winterbottom's England teams were not touched by anything as sophisticated as tactics. Indeed there was an outcry when, in 1951, with a brilliant Austrian team due at Wembley, Billy Wright was picked at inside-left instead of right-half, plainly to counteract the king pin of the Austrian team, the roving centre-half Ernst Ocwirk.

West Germany had done as much with Morlock in Vienna, and most surprisingly won, 2-0. In the event it never happened. Billy Nicholson, a Spurs player then, dropped out injured as the right-half and Billy Wright played in his customary role.

After Winterbottom, Alf Ramsey. There is no doubt in my mind that without Alf, as Nobby Stiles tearfully informed him after the 1966 World Cup Final, England would never have won that trophy.

His methods may have been controversial, their knock on effect on the English game at large may have been malign, but his ability then (I repeat, then) to get the best out of players, inspired them, used them to the greatest effect, fashioned them into a formidable team, after some early stutters.

But unlike Pozzo, or the father of Austrian football, the extraordinary days of success and efficiency were numbered. By 1972, he had, frankly, "gone," as was so clearly evidenced by the two European Championship quarter-final matches against West Germany.

In the first, at Wembley, he rashly put out a midfield without a single "ball winner," allowing Gunter Netzer to run riot and run the show. The Germans won 3-1. For the return game in Berlin, Alf made no attempt to win back the two goals needed for survival.

Instead he put out a team consisting largely of defenders and assorted hard nuts, capable only of spoiling and defending. It was a shaming 0-0 draw, at the end of which Netzer observed, "The whole England team has autographed my leg."

Denied

Ramsey should have gone then but in fact he lingered on for another couple of years and might be there yet, had the late Sir Harold Thompson not torpedoed him in committee; then angrily denied he had done it.

Don Revie had a disastrous regimen, the worst of which was his flight to Arabia. Luckily for him, Thompson, by then Chairman of the FA, had ineptly made himself both judge and prosecutor in the consequent case, so that Revie was able to have the verdict overturned in the High Court; at the cost of a bitter, even savage, mauling from Mr. Justice Cantley.

Next, Ron Greenwood, a Thompson-inspired appointment. Ron by then was sickened by what had happened to the game. Physically and psychologically, he was in retirement.

But he returned for a few parentehtical years, during which

NAGERS MAKE THE ST OF THEIR TIME

England did at least, reach the last stage of the Spanish World Cup; and with better methods and selection, might have gone farther still. Then it was Bobby Robson; and this is where we came in.

Nobody really knows just how much or how little a manager does, either for club or country. Far too often he takes the blame and carries the can for failure. Often, too, he's praised when he just happened to be there at the time.

This season Juventus, in the case of Rino Marchesi, and Chelsea, in that of Johnny Hollins, have steadily refused to sack their manager (Hollins may not be in charge by the time you read this) at an evident cost to the club.

I like both men and wish them nothing but success, but it was manifest that each had lost his way. Football is a team sport, a group sport, a strange sport, in which the players' reaction to a manager, however irrational, plays a substantial part.

Look, this season, at what happened to two who had so recently had success; Gerald Houllier of Paris-Saint Germain, Terry Venables of Barcelona and now Tottenham.

Heroes one season, evident failures the next, or next but one. Houllier's team set up a new unbeaten record. Venables' Barcelona won the title. Then anti-climax. Hard to explain. At this point, I shall not try.

RIGHT: Bobby Robson . . . strong views of his own. BELOW: Brian Clough, wanted by Wales.

WORLD SOCCER CLUB FOCUS ON REAL MADRID

SKILL? YES . . . LEGS? MAYBE!

by KEIR RADNEDGE

FIRST Napoli, Diego Maradona's all-conquering Italian champions (well, all-conquering in Italy); then FC Porto, Portugal's reigning champions of Europe and the world. Now Bayern Munich.

Real Madrid Club de Futbol remain the most famous club in the world and their progress this season — they are runaway leaders of the Spanish championship as well as Champions' Cup semi-finalists — has prompted comparisons with the glorious days of Di Stefano and Puskas.

Yet it is 22 years since they last won Europe's most prestigious club trophy and seven years since they last reached the final. And, judging from the way they squeezed past Bayern, they are far from invincible, whatever soccer romance would prefer to think.

It was only thanks to two late, late goals in Munich — and one of those courtesy of a blunder by Jean-Marie Pfaff — that Madrid even gained the platform for one of their famous comebacks in the Estadio Bernabeu.

Then, with only one goal needed to secure a place in the semi-finals, Madrid made hard work of it.

As a capacity 95,000 crowd looked on in comparative quiet, it took a deflected shot from Milan Jankovic after a free kick and then an admittedly splendid volley by Michel to provide an aggregate victory over these Germans for the first time in three Champions' Cup ties between the clubs.

For much of the rest of the time the match was as tedious as any to be seen in any middling league match in almost any country in Europe.

For Madrid, Butragueño was clearly still short of match fitness after several weeks struggling with an assortment of muscle strains. Then Ricardo Gallego was only just back in midfield after being injured in the second leg against Napoli last autumn.

Third, once the first goal had gone in Madrid were caught in a tactical dilemma: did they sit on the lead or try to extend it and risk allowing Bayern back into the tie?

As the second half progressed in fits and starts, amid a catalogue of niggly fouls and ham acting, so coach Leo Beenhaaker sent out instructions to close the game down.

He even sent on defender Solana as substitute for Butragueño while Belgian referee Alexis Ponnet dragged out six minutes overtime for injuries, time-wasting and bookings.

Bayern were no better than Real; probably worse. Yet they had two fine opportunities in the second half to turn tedium into drama.

First a long clearance by Pfaff and a panic misjudgment by Tendillo left Mark Hughes with a (comparatively) simple chance to score. Clear in front of keeper Buyo he caught the ball with the outside of his right foot and whacked it wide of goal.

In that moment Hughes not only probably cost Bayern any slight chance of revival he probably wiped out his own prospects of staying on in Munich when his loan period from Barcelona expires at the end of the season.

Soon after, Gallego had to head off the Madrid goal-line after a corner by substitute Eck had again exposed Tendillo in the middle of the Spanish defence.

And that was that.

Madrid entered the semi-finals to the delight of their fans as well as the European traditionalists; Bayern slunk away, with coach Jupp Heynckes looking even more strained than usual.

How do Madrid compare with the other Champions' Cup hopefuls? They have the skill, the confidence and the cunning to beat Steaua and Benfica. But whether they have the legs, as well, which are a prerequisite in taking on PSV Eindhoven is another matter entirely — and one, to be frank, which is open to doubt.

Still, Madrid can count themselves perhaps fortunate to be in Europe at all after the missile-throwing at their semi-final against Bayern last season. Those incidents, reported by referee Michel Vautrot and UEFA delegate Ted Croker, led of course to Madrid being forced to play their first leg against Napoli behind closed doors and their home leg against FC Porto down south in Valencia.

Maybe, back at last in the Bernabeu, their off day against Bayern should be put down to first night nerves. But, somehow, I doubt it.

THE COACH

Leo BEENHAKKER. Aged 45 (born Rotterdam on August 2, 1942). Began his playing career in his native Holland with the Rotterdam club Excelsior but was forced to retire by injury when only 26. He had obtained his coaching qualifications two years earlier and began coaching first with Veendam's juniors, then as Go-Ahead Eagles of Deventer. He returned to Veendam as first-team coach, spent a year in the second division in charge of Cambuur then moved into the top flight with Go Ahead before taking up youth coaching appointments with the two Dutch giants — first Feyenoord of Rotterdam and then Ajax Amsterdam. Within a fortnight of the start of the 1979-80 season boardroom unrest led to the dismissal of first-team boss Cor Brom and Beenhakker was appointed caretaker — with resounding success. Ajax won the championship with a three-point advantage over AZ Alkmaar and Beenhakker was immediately lured away to Spain by Zaragoza. In three seasons Beenhakker took Zaragoza from relegation prospects to title contenders. His positive approach and insistence on skill at the expense of strength earned many admirers. His name was linked with Real Madrid, Barcelona etc when his Zaragoza contract expired in 1984. Instead he surprisingly returned to Holland to coach second division Volendam. The club was small but had big ambitions and had been adopted by a major sportswear manufacturer. But Beenhakker has been there little more than half a season when he was borrowed by the KNVB to take over the national team in emergency after Rinus Michels suffered a heart attack. Holland lost out to Belgium in the World Cup qualifiers in the last minutes of a play-off. But Beenhakker had done more than enough to impress the federation and was offered full-time appointment as national boss. He had accepted in principle and was about to do so formally when Real Madrid, on the recommendation of retiring general manager Luis Molowny, stepped in. On the eve of Madrid's victorious 1985 UEFA Cup semi-final against Internazionale it was announced that he would take over that summer. Beenhakker once summed up his philosophy in these words: "I like to win because this is a professional sport. But I also believe that a football team's responsibility is to play in such a way that people want to keep coming back to watch. "When my team has scored once then I want them to go on and score a second and then a third. Football is about much more than scoring one goal."

REAL MADRID IN FIGURES

Founded: 1902.
Membership: 60,000.
Stadium: Estadio Santiago Bernabeu (95,000 capacity) — venue for the Finals of the 1982 World Cup and the 1964 European Nations' championship.
World Club Cup: 1960.
European Champions' Cup: 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1966 (six). Runners-up in 1962, 1964, 1981.
Cup-winners' Cup: Runners-up in 1971 and 1983.
UEFA Cup: 1985 and 1986.
Spanish league: 22 times record champions.
Spanish cup: 15 times winners.

REAL MADRID'S MATCH RECORD IN EUROPE

Champions' Cup	150	90	19	41	356	166
All-time	215	122	32	61	469	234

THE PLAYERS

Francisco BUYO Sanchez. Goalkeeper. Aged 30 (born Jan 13, 1958) with four caps for Spain. Joined Madrid in the summer of 1986 from Sevilla. But he began his career with La Coruña where he was discovered by Luis Suarez — Coruña's greatest-ever player and now assistant to national manager Muñoz. Suarez was coach to Coruña when Buyo joined and Suarez rated his potential so highly he would call him back for extra training, with the emphasis on reflexes and agility. One of the first senior matches that Buyo played as a teenager under Suarez was against West Bromwich Albion in the prestigious Teresa Herrera pre-season tournament, which is staged annually in La Coruña. Buyo last played for Spain as a substitute in last week's 2-0 win over Luxembourg, having made his debut in the historic 12-1 thrashing of Malta, in December 1983, which earned Spain — improbably — a place in the European championship finals in France the following spring. Buyo was Madrid's penalty shoot-out hero against Juventus in the second round of the Champions' Cup last season. He also saved a penalty from fellow international Francisco in Madrid's 1-0 win last autumn away to his old club, Sevilla! Says his 'secret' when facing penalty kicks is to keep repeating the Lord's Prayer.

AGUSTIN Rodriguez Santiago. Goalkeeper. Aged 28 (born Sept 10, 1959). Under-21 international. Promoted to the senior squad from Castilla, Madrid's second division nursery team, in 1980. Kept goal against Liverpool in the 1981 Champions' Cup final defeat in Paris. Unlucky with injuries in the past couple of years.

Jose Manuel OCHOTORENA Santacruz. Goalkeeper. Aged 29 (born Jan 16, 1959). Born in San Sebastian but brought up through the Madrid youth system, Promoted to the first team squad from Castilla in 1984.

CHENDO — Miguel Porlan Noguera. Right back. Aged 27 (born Oct 12, 1961). With 11 caps. Was called into the 1986 World Cup squad as late replacement for Real Madrid defensive colleague Manuel Sanchis, who suffered a broken ankle in the UEFA Cup semi-final against the Italian club, Internazionale. Chendo, born in Murcia, joined Madrid from their second division nursery team, Castilla, five years ago and figured in both their UEFA Cup triumphs. But tragedy struck on his return from the World Cup. His wife had given birth during the finals but then the baby was killed in a car crash in which Chendo and his wife were both injured a few weeks after his return home. Yet he returned to start the season with Madrid and starred in last season's Champions' Cup victory over Juventus through his excellent close-marking job on Michel Platini. Chendo missed a penalty in the 2-1 European championship victory away to Albania in December, 1986.

MINO — Bernardino Serrano Mori. Central defender. Aged 25 (born Jan 29, 1963). Big-money signing from Gijon 18 months ago who has so far failed to live up to expectations.

Antonio MACEDA Frances. Stopper or sweeper. Aged 30 (born May 16, 1957) with 36 caps. Began his career with Gijon and joined Madrid for £800,000 three years ago as defensive replacement for Uli Stielike, who had left the Xamax Neuchatel of Switzerland. Maceda made his international debut in the 2-1 Wembley win over England in 1981 and starred in the finals of the 1984 European championship. Maceda scored the last-minute winner against West Germany in the first round, to depose the holders and earn Spain a semi-final spot; then, in the semi-final against Denmark, he scored the equaliser for 1-1 which sent the match to extra-time and, ultimately, penalties. Two bookings in those matches meant, however, that Maceda was missing (and badly missed) for the Final defeat by France. Troubled in 1985-86 by knee trouble which flared again on the eve of the World Cup and he was sent home for an operation. Has yet to prove his full recovery.

Jose Antonio CAMACHO Alfaro. Fullback. Aged 32 (born June 8, 1955) with 77 caps — Spain's record international, having overtaken Arconada (68) just before the 1986 World Cup finals. Captained Madrid to victory over Köln in the 1986 UEFA Cup final after having been one of Spain's regulars for nearly a decade. Yet Camacho was nearly lost to football in 1978 after suffering a knee ligament injury in training. He missed the World Cup finals that year and all the next season but returned in time to play against Liverpool in the 1981 Champions' Cup final and in the 1982 World Cup finals. Can play in midfield or central defence.

Manuel SANCHIS Hontilluelo. Central defender. Aged 22 (born May 23, 1965) with ten caps. Son of the Manuel Sanchis who starred for Madrid in the 1960s, and who in 1966 collected a Champions' Cup medal with his club and then played for his country (and scored one marvellous solo goal) in the World Cup finals in England. The new Sanchis came up through Madrid's youth section, first made his name with affiliated second division nursery team Castilla, and was promoted to the Madrid squad at around the same time as Butragueño. Unlucky to miss out on a trip to Mexico for last year's World Cup after breaking an ankle in the UEFA Cup semi-final against Internazionale. Recovered to play in Spain's European under-21 title success against Italy early last season and then made his senior debut as a substitute against Rumania.

Jesus Angel SOLANA Bermejo. Defender. Aged 23 (born Dec 25, 1964). Born on Christmas Day, 1964. An under-21 international and another Madrid youth product now settled with the club after holding out over the summer for an improved contract offer from president Ramon Mendoza — which he ultimately got.

Miguel TENDILLO Berlinguer. Central defender. Aged 25 (born Dec 1, 1961) with 25 caps. Cost £40,000 last summer from Murcia — both strengthening Madrid's defence and also reviving his own career which had gone into decline after the 1982 World Cup finals. Discovered by Valencia and rated one of the best young central defenders in Europe in the early 1980s. Made his Spain debut as a substitute against Denmark in May, 1980, then helped Valencia beat Arsenal (albeit on penalties) to win the Cup-winners' Cup. After the 1982 World Cup flop he lost form, suffered several injuries and was virtually given away to Murcia. Rediscovered his form last season and Madrid finally confirmed transfer interest they had first shown six years ago.

Julio LLORENTE Gento. Central defender. Aged 21 (born June 14, 1966). Nephew of the great Francisco Gento, Madrid's 1950s and 1960s left winger. Promoted this season from Castilla. Caused a scare in pre-season training when he collapsed and was diagnosed an epileptic but, under medical supervision, has been cleared to continue his career.

Rafael MARTIN VAZQUEZ. Midfield. Aged 22 (born Sept 25, 1965) with one cap — having made his Spain debut as a substitute in the recent 0-0 draw against East Germany in January. One of the finest young midfield players in Spain and subject of interest a year ago from Internazionale of Italy when he was involved in highly-publicised contract negotiations with Madrid. Another Castilla product and evidence that for all Madrid's free-spending reputation, they have also invested heavily and wisely in their youth set-up.

Rafael GORDILLO Vazquez. Midfield. Aged 31 (born Feb 24, 1957) with 68 caps. One of Spain's most consistent internationals at left back or in midfield. Began with Betis Seville and spent all his career there until Real Madrid signed him for £1million in the summer of 1985. Gordillo had been a regular target for transfer offers from Madrid and Barcelona but it was the arrival of freedom of contract which proved vital. Gordillo's contract ended at the end of the 1984-5 season and, at last, Betis were unable to impede his move to another club. Scored one of the five goals which Madrid put past Köln in the first leg of the 1986 UEFA Cup final. Gordillo made his Spain debut in March 1978 against Norway. Missed out on a place in the 1978 World Cup finals but has been in the team, barring injuries (several of them) and suspension, ever since.

MICHEL — Jose Miguel Gonzalez Maria del Campo. Midfield. Aged 24 (born Mar 23, 1963) with 22 caps. Alongside Butragueno the brightest star of Spain's new generation. Skilful left foot which he first employed for Castilla, Real Madrid's second division nursery club. In the spring of 1984 he was a member of Spain's team beaten by England in the European under-21 final and a few weeks later he was promoted to Madrid's first-team squad. Soon secured a first-team place and then lost it when he was sent off in December of that same year against Hercules. His misdemeanour cost him a £500 club fine in addition to a three-match ban. Forced his way back later in the season and was magnificent in the 3-0 away win over Videoton in the first leg of the 1985 UEFA Cup final. He scored the first goal and created the other two. Made his Spain debut against Austria in November 1985 and scored a first international goal with a Platini-style swerving free kick a month later. Michel was the centre of controversy in the 1986 World Cup when Aussie ref Chris Bambridge refused him a goal against Brazil when Michel's shot struck the bar and was cleared from behind the line.

RICARDO GALLEGO . . . back to fitness.

Ricardo GALLEGO Redondo. Midfield/sweeper. Aged 29 (born Feb 8, 1959) with 37 caps. Joined Madrid from nursery club Castilla in 1980 and made a brilliant start to the season. Missed the 1981 Champions' Cup final against Liverpool however because of injury and was then on the losing side against Aberdeen in the Cup-winners' Cup final two years later. Scored a fine goal against Scotland on his debut for Spain as a substitute in spring 1982 and appeared in the finals of the 1982 and 1985 World Cups and the 1984 European championship. Missed the European championship victory in Albania at the end of 1986 through injury and was then surprisingly omitted from the squad for the 1-1 draw against Holland. He returned for a 2-0 win over Luxembourg but then suffered a broken ankle in the second leg against Napoli last autumn and has only just recovered.

Milan JANKOVIC. Midfield/attack. Aged 28 (born Dec 31, 1959) with six caps for Yugoslavia. Made his international debut in a 4-2 defeat by Brazil in Recife in April, 1986. Impressed Madrid so much playing against them for Red Star Belgrade in the Champions' Cup quarter-finals last spring that they instantly signed him for the Spanish championship play-offs to replace hepatitis victim Jorge Valdano. Jankovic scored the winner on his league debut, at Gijon.

Miguel PARDEZA Pichardo. Winger. Aged 23 (born Feb 8, 1965). Under-21 international. Signed in 1986 from Zaragoza on Beenhakker's recommendation but has been unable to force his way regularly into the first-team.

Francisco LLORENTE Gento. Right wing. Aged 22 (born May 21, 1965) with one cap, gained as a substitute in the 5-0 European thrashing of Albania last autumn. Also an under-21 international. Another nephew of the great Francisco Gento but famous in his own right now as

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BELGIUM

MECHELEN, last season's Belgian runner-up and cup holders are, after a sluggish start to the season, well placed to fulfil their enormous potential and win the championship, writes IAIN MACLEOD.

Dutch coach Aad de Mos — who recently refused the opportunity to return to Ajax Amsterdam — has developed the most compact side in the country, and Mechelen, as a bonus, are also in the Cup-winners' Cup semi-final.

Mechelen's one recent reverse occurred against out-going champions Anderlecht. They won their one piece of silverware and denied he Mos his first of the season when goals from De Groote and Grun secured victory in the home leg of the Belgian Super Cup.

Mechelen, though, are unbeaten in nine league games — since Anderlecht beat them just before Christmas — and have dropped only one point in that time, a goalless draw away to St Truiden.

It is the kind of form which suggests that although Mechelen's lead at the top, a mere two points, is fragile, they can take some comfort from the inconsistency of closest rivals, Club Brugge, and Antwerp — the season's surprise package, who have been unable to maintain their pre-Christmas form.

Mechelen owe much to the goalscoring form of Israel's Eli Ohana. He scored twice in one of the club's more convincing victories, 5-2 away to Kortrijk, but it has been his often singular contributions in matches where one goal has proven decisive to which Mechelen must be grateful.

AUSTRIA

THE PREPARATIONS for the start of the championship play-offs in Austria were marred by acusations of doping against one of the leading clubs.

As if the Austrians didn't have enough problems — what with the slump in attendances, when even top matches no longer attract five-figure gates — it is being rumoured that Grazer AK's players are on drugs.

GAK finished third in the initial phase of the championship programme and are at least in the running for a UEFA-Cup place.

At the time of writing it is not clear where the story originated. Certainly, there is no evidence against a team of mostly unknowns who suddenly began playing well above potential.

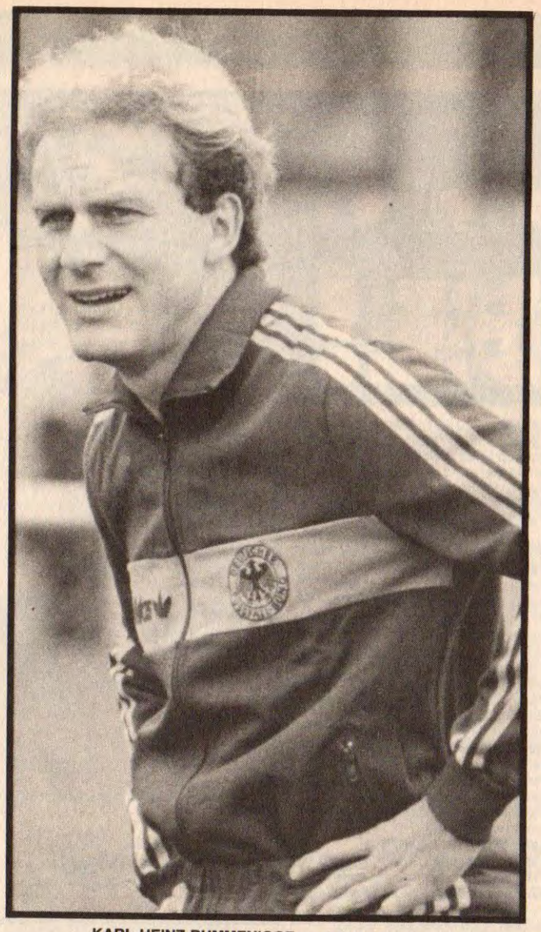
Some experts claim team manager, German Adi Pinter 39, started the ball rolling in the hope of gaining some free publicity.

In West Germany Adi has never risen above managing third division outfits. He did study football coaching with the likes of Jupp Heynckes and Wolf Werner, but never achieved their status.

Last year he was hired by the club in Graz where he was born. After ten years spent in an orphanage he emigrated to Germany.

Pinter saved GAK from relegation and now, thanks to or despite his unorthodox methods, he is leading them to a place in Europe.

After three-and-a-half months break the Austrian league resumed in mid-March, but with Rapid and FK Austria taking their points with them from the qualifying phase, no surprises are expected in the eight-team play-off.



KARL-HEINZ RUMMENIGGE . . . injured again.

SWITZERLAND

SWISS football awoke from its customary winter slumber in the first week in March, but of the four scheduled games in the championship play-off, two had to be cancelled because of unplayable pitches.

Favourites to win the title are holders Neuchatel Xamax who finished the initial phase of 22 matches in first place despite having missed throughout the injured key players Uli Stielike, Zdenek Urban and Claude Ryf.

Nonetheless, manager Gilbert Gress is banking on a well-knit formation, ideally strengthened and now that Stielike and Ryf are fit, well prepared for the decisive stage.

Biggest threat is posed by Grasshoppers but they suffered a big blow when Brazilian striker Paulo Cesar damaged knee ligaments.

The Hoppers boast the best defence in the league, while team boss, the Austrian Kurt Jara, is determined to show the board they were wrong to give him advanced notice.

And from next season the German Ottmar Hitzfeld who has done wonders with FC Aarau, will be taking over.

Aarau, who were lying fourth, are capable of springing a surprise, but whether it will be enough to lift the title is debatable.

Still, with the newly signed Dane Lars Lunde and the half-New Zealander Wynton Rufer as a striking duo the provincials feel they are at least good enough for a UEFA-Cup place.

The impending departure of manager Hitzfeld could, however, have a negative effect.

Young Boys, who were third at the winter break, signed a Belgian Peter Koezle from Cercle Bruges and they also bank on a couple of sturdy Swedes like Holmquist and Nilsson, plus Dane Frederiksen.

Servette are counting on their new manager Jean-Claude Donze, regarded by many as one of the best in the country. The Geneva outfit have problems with too many foreigners, including the German Karl-Heinz Rummenigge who again has been injured when most needed.

But their Danish striker John Eriksen made headlines by hitting four goals in the 4-1 win over St Gallen.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

WEATHER AFFECTS THE FANS

WEST GERMANY

THE LONGEST ever winter break in the championship programme (77 days) became something of a farce when hardly a week after the resumption of fixtures heavy snow falls and ice caused the postponement of four matches. A fifth was cancelled because 13 players of Eintracht Frankfurt went down with flu.

The weather also affected the attendances on that day — Bayern Munich's home match against FC Hamburg attracted just 8,500. Ironically in the second part of December, through January and at the beginning of February the weather was exceptionally mild so that football would have been possible.

In the championship stakes only three clubs had a realistic chance of winning the title. Leaders Werder Bremen, defending champions Bayern and Koln, who restarted badly and lost ground on their rivals, by drawing three games on the trot.

The Cologne outfit face one of the most important tasks in recent years. Treasurer Hans Neukirch warns: "We must at least reach a European tournament. Only then can we hope to keep our stars like Pierre Littbarski, Jurgen Kohler, or Bodo Illgner."

There are, however, within the club, surprisingly, pessimists who don't believe Warder Bremen can be caught.

The problem is that Koln do not have adequate reserves. If a top player is injured, or suspended, there is no one of that class to replace him.

Koln apparently have only 16 full time professionals and that is a severe handicap. While in Munich, or Bremen even internationals often sit on the bench, Koln only have inexperienced youngsters in reserve.

Of the three foreigners: Morton Olsen, Flemming Poulsen (both Denmark) and Tony Woodcock (England) only two are allowed to play simultaneously.

The small squad also means there is not much competition for places and therefore there is less incentive for the regulars to fight than at other clubs; the bonuses are already secure. The departure of the technical director Udo Lattek has not exactly contributed to a better atmosphere.

Bayern, universally acclaimed as the "certain" champions, are finding themselves in the role of pursuers.

Team manager Jupp Heynckes has no illusions: "It will be tough. On paper Bremen are clear favourites now. But we shall try to convert the "impossible" in to the "possible".

What Bayern need is a successful run including a win in Bremen on March 26. Bayern recall that in 1986 they snatched the title from Bremen's grasp at the finish.

"We shall fight to the last", says striker Roland Wohlfarth who has just extended his contract in Munich for another two years.

"If we hit form, then we shall make it." Bayern will attempt what no other German team has managed so far, to become champions for the fourth time running.

Werder Bremen meanwhile have been strengthened by their recent successes. There is an air of confidence about the place on the banks of the Weser.

Two years ago when the Bremer were so near the title, most of them didn't really believe they would finish tops. Now the self-confidence is almost infectious. The whole team are convinced they will be crowned champions.

Midfielder Mirko Votava says: "We are full of self-belief because we have earned it through our success. We've made progress, above all in tactical deployment, while the fact that we've reached the semi-finals of the UEFA-Cup has given us additional boost.

"Two years ago we had star players from whom a lot was expected but who didn't live up to these hopes because the stress was too much for them. Now we are a unit in which everybody fights for everyone else."

A week before the resumption of the championship the third round of the cup was staged which brought at least one big surprise. The amateurs of Pforzheim held mighty Bremen to a 1-1 draw before losing the replay 3-1. Bayern beat Nurnberg 3-1 before a crowd of 61,000, with the Welsh international Mark Hughes among the scorers.

But in the quarter-finals Bayern went out 2-1 at Hamburg, Bremen defeated the amateurs of Viktoria Aschaffenburg 3-1, Eintracht Frankfurt put out Bayer Uerdingen 4-2, while Bochum eliminated Fortuna Cologne 4-1.

In the Bundesliga Bremen updated their fixtures by thumping unhappy Schalke 5-0. The former international keeper Toni Schumaker was helpless, though two goals came form penalties for hands.

Schalke, incidentally, recalled sweeper Klaus Fichtel, at 43 the oldest player in the league.

Werder then surprisingly dropped a home point drawing 0-0 with Kaiserslautern; Bayern's 2-1 away to Waldhof Mannheim gave them hope, albeit only temporarily.

Bayern followed up by thrashing FC Homburg 6-0, Werder overcame the hurdle at Bochum by 1-0.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

OLYMPIC PLACE STILL POSSIBLE

POLAND

THE second-half of the Polish league season began in mid-March following the eighth Finals of the Cup.

Next on the agenda amongst Polish fans was the European Group A Olympic qualifier with Greece.

The reversal of the result with Denmark, who fielded the ineligible Per Frimann, means that defeat of the Greeks in Poland would put a place in Seoul back within the realms of possibility.

Team manager Zdzislaw Podedworny decided to include in his squad players already on 'A' chief Wojciech Lazarek's list — namely Lesniak, the leading goalscorer from Zornik, Rudy, Sokolowski, the two Warzychas and Furtok, the latter after a year's absence from representative football.

In preparation for the Olympic qualifying matches — Poland still have to receive Rumania, West Germany, as well as Greece, and visit Denmark — the squad played in the Indian tournament, drawing with the hosts but losing to the USSR in both the preliminary phase and the final.

Podedworny did not learn much from these games but at least he has rather more cause for optimism than his national squad colleague.

Lesniak's goal must be World Cup qualification by getting past England and Sweden.

His 'perestroika' of the 'A' team ought to be helped by Boniek and other senior players declaring their willingness to be available for the friendlies with Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and the USSR.

BOB VAUGHAN

SNOW GO MAGDEBURG

EAST GERMANY

THE long mid-season break, the Winter Olympics and a sudden spell of bad weather as East German football was about to resume have rather put the Oberliga in the sporting shadows.

Matters have not been helped by the Sparwasser Affair, no representatives reaching the quarter final stages of the European competitions, and the possibility of the championship being virtually in the bag for BFC Dynamo if Juergen Bogs' side take the points from Lok at Dimitrowstrasse.

The champions' game at Magdeburg was a victim of the snow when the Oberliga recommenced and Lok lost 1-0 at Aue to Wismut while Dresden could only draw at Riesa.

The following Saturday, there was only one match off, Lok's Bruno-Plache Stadium being unfit for Magdeburg's visit so the Elbesiders still have to play a game this half season.

The Dynamoes took the points from fellow Berliners Union to open up a two-point lead.

Union will be hard put to avoid relegation but Halle have put themselves in the UEFA Cup frame following their 3-0 defeat of Riesa.

National team manager Bernd Stange is naturally concerned about the sidelining of the country's star footballer, Andreas Thom, who has been suffering from a leg injury since the friendly with Czechoslovakia in Gran Canaria during the winter training camp in the sun.

Thom missed the goalless draw with Spain in Valencia and fears recovery may prove a lengthy process.

Nevertheless, BFC remain firm favourites for their tenth consecutive championship, which will be, needless to say, a record.

The national team will, however, require a fully-fit Thom before preparation begins for the World Cup qualifying games with the Soviet Union, Austria, Turkey and Iceland.

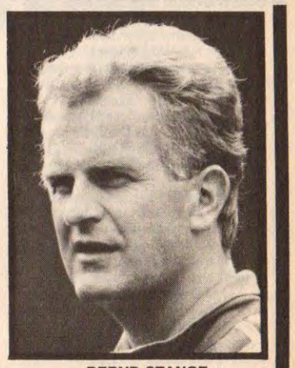
The warm-up games begin with a friendly with Rumania in Halle and the DFV is seeking further opponents before the season ends.

The planned games at 'A' and Under-21 level with Northern Ireland, initially agreed for late April, will not now take place. The countries have yet to meet at top level.

Following a shake-down game with the Soviet Union in Altenburg, the Olympic team entertained Portugal in Aue and Iceland in Bischofswerda in matches counting towards the Finals in Seoul.

The squad won the February four-nations competition in Malta, defeating Finland, Tunisia and the hosts to score maximum points and eight goals without reply.

BOB VAUGHAN



BERND STANGE

MALTA

THE third Rothmans International Tournament in Malta saw the national teams of Malta, Finland and Tunisia, as well as East Germany's Olympic squad, taking part in what turned out to be a huge local success, writes BRIAN DE BONO.

The tournament was eventually won by the East Germans (aided by full internationals such as Pastor, Lindner and Weissflog) but the locals put up a great hearted effort which saw them register two 'historic' wins against Finland and Tunisia (the island side's first victories in over 30 games!).

The Maltese, for whom West German coach Horst Heese was making a remarkable debut, introduced new blood such as Hamrun's 17-year-old Joe Brincat and Zurrieq's Charles 'Tully' Micallef.

Both responded brilliantly on their debuts, even if the man who stole the show for the locals was Sliema defender John Buttigieg.

Other Maltese players leaving rather good impressions were Carmel Busuttil — scorer of three goals — Ray Vella, Alex Azzopardi and Carmel Degiorgio.

RUMANIA

WITH the Rumanian league already a two-horse race, elimination from the European Championship and rather modest hopes of qualifying for the Olympic Games Finals, interest was being clearly focussed on Steaua Bucharest's European Cup quarter final triumph over Glasgow Rangers.

Prior to the first leg, Steaua's domestic cup-tie had been brought forward.

The game with Vointa in front of 15,000 in the August 23 Stadium was their first competitive game of the year and they comfortably won 3-0 thanks to goals by Ungureanu in the 37th and 43rd minutes and by Belodedici a minute before the interval.

Elsewhere, there were shocks or narrow squeaks for the First Division clubs.

Poli Timisoara went out 2-0 away to FC Maramures Baia Mare, FC Olt scraped home 2-1 at Bacau against Third Division Partizanul while previous European competitors Cluj-Napoca were dismissed 2-0 at Satu Mare by Olimpia.

Rapid won 1-0 at home to ASA but Dinamo and Victoria only survived by the odd goal at Montana Sinaia (Division Three) and Gloria Bistrita respectively.

Now it's back to league action until the next cup round on May 4. Steaua began the Spring programme holding a two-point lead over Dinamo.

STRIKE THREAT REMAINS

ITALY

by Jane Nottage

THE ITALIAN federation decision to allow three foreign players per team from next season disturbed a hornet's nest.

The player's federation erupted like a volcano, threatening strikes and disruptive action (whatever that may be) whilst the various club presidents jumped on the first flights available to South America and Europe to catch the best talent.

Judging by the standard of some matches recently, a strike would be a relief. It has been threatened for April 17 but most likely will not take place.

Most club presidents were in favour of expanding two foreigners to three, but Napoli president Corrado Ferlaino remained unconvinced of the advantages although Napoli will have three foreign players next year — Maradona, Careca and probably Diego's baby brother Hugo.

The other teams are also drawing up their options in the chase for the talent. Players most wanted are Emilio Butragueno, Michel, Hugo Sanchez, Paolo Futre and Enzo Francescoli.

Top clubs Roma, Juventus and Milan are all in the running for these players but it will be a difficult road. Real Madrid have little intention of selling their creme de la creme. Diego Maradona said in a recent interview: "Real will never give up Michel, Butragueno or Sanchez, they buy, not sell players."

On the subject of the third foreigner, he said: "It will be a good thing for Italian football, the foreign players, like Gullit, pull in the crowds and more than earn their keep."

On Bernd Schuster, one of the players most courted by the Italians, Maradona added: "Impossible, he's almost signed for Real Madrid and has already bought a house and found schools for his kids — that doesn't seem the action of someone contemplating a move abroad."

One of the few definite signings has been Lothar Matthaus by Milan club Internazionale and judging by their performance away to Juventus, they need him. They offered little resistance to a poor Juventus who won 1-0 from a penalty given for a foul on Rush and taken by Magrin.

Inter's attacking duo of Aldo Serena and old campaigner Alessandro Altobelli were hardly evident and playmakers Gianfranco Matteoli and Enzo Scifo contributed little, if anything.

Scifo, who was the best on the pitch the previous week against Verona lost form entirely against Juventus. Club president Pellegrini has declared that 'the only person certain of their job is manager Giovanni Trapattoni — he will be the one to rebuild Inter.'

And he has a long, hard job ahead of him.

League leaders Napoli have suffered a brief hiccup, losing two games in a row, both at home, something almost unheard of — in fact before the home match against Roma, they hadn't lost a league match at home for two seasons.

First they dropped out of the Italian Cup at home to Torino, then they fell to the Romans. Scoring the first goal, a straight shot from the penalty area off a pass by Manfredonia, was Roma and Italy's talented youngster Guiseppe Giannini.

In the second half Napoli turned on their first-class style and went into attack, but to no avail.

Defender Oddi chipped in Roma's second goal to provoke Maradona into launching a pass 40 metres up the pitch from midfield to find Careca who blasted it past goalkeeper Trancredi to make it 2-1.

But the despair on Maradona's face at the end of the match said it all — although undoubtedly still a fine team, their reputation of invincibility had gone.

Four teams are left in the Italian Cup — Inter, Juventus, Torino and Sampdoria. The semi-finals between Inter/Sampdoria and Torino/Juventus will take place sometime at the end of March or April — the league has not yet decided on the dates.

As usual the semi-finals will be played in two legs which means we'll have the undoubted pleasure of seeing three derbies in a month between Turin clubs Juventus and Torino. Two in the Cup and one in the league.

Juventus are lurking midway down the table. The basic problem still lies in midfield which does not move the ball forward quickly enough.

Platini had, of course, already decided where to send the ball before he'd picked it up — not giving the opposition time to think or act. But great midfielders are difficult to find, although Juventus are after Francescoli.

Laudrup and Rush have not had a good season, scoring only four goals in the league between them, all by Rush. However, in the Juventus/Inter match Rush looked much more at home and demonstrated a little of his old will to win. Next season should be a lot easier.

REAL CRUISE TO THE TITLE

SPAIN

by Duncan Shaw

REAL MADRID are cruising towards their third successive league title despite being unceremoniously dumped out of the Cup by Real Sociedad.

With 11 rounds of the championship remaining, Real are seven points clear of Real Sociedad, their nearest challengers.

John Toshack's team does have a game in hand, and Madrid still have to make the difficult trip to San Sebastian.

But, even so, it is difficult to see Butragueno and co being pulled back.

Full-back Chendo admitted that he and his colleagues were "absolutely exhausted" with the pressure of so many league, cup, Champions Cup and international friendly matches in such a short time.

"If I'm at home for two consecutive days a week, I consider myself lucky," said Butragueno.

But this exhaustion was far from obvious when the Madridistas travelled across to Valencia for a league fixture brought forward to Wednesday in order to help the national team preparing for the European Championship.

Valencia — clearly missing the injured Rabah Madjer — were somewhat fortunate to hold a lively Real to a 1-1 draw.

Real took the lead five minutes after the interval through a perfect volley from 'ancient' substitute Santillana.

Fernando snatched a scrappy equaliser for the locals, who clung on for a point thanks to three decisive saves from 'keeper Sempere.

The following night, Atletico Madrid and Real Sociedad squared up in a televised match to see who was going to push Real Madrid for the title.

Both needed to win to stay in the championship race after having liberally dropped points in the previous weeks.

Atletico pressed hard in the first half. But after the break goals by Jose Maria Bakero and Aitor Beguiristain gave Toshack's team their second win in the capital city in three weeks.

Nothing like as dramatic as the 4-0 Cup win over Real in the Bernabau, but still significant and praiseworthy.

There were three other results of interest in this 27th round of the league.

Mallorca — now under former Barcar coach Lucien Muller (Lorenzo Serra Ferrer having been moved upstairs) — boosted their chances of avoiding the drop by beating a lacklustre Barcelona 1-0 at home.

Magdaleno scored the only goal with nine minutes remaining.

Three minutes later Andoni Zubizarreta saved the first penalty of his professional career — stopping the shot of Luis Garcia — but then Gary Lineker failed to capitalise on the Spanish 'keeper's feat by missing the chance of an equaliser right at the death.

The Englishman will certainly have to be sharper if Barca are to stand any chance of beating Real Sociedad in the Cup Final to be played in Madrid on March 30.

This is a game that the Catalans will have to win to preserve their unique record of uninterupted participation in the European competitions, a UEFA Cup spot now being extremely unlikely.

Little Logrones — first time ever in the first division — also improved their chances of staying in the top flight by over-coming fellow relegation strugglers Betis 2-0 at home.

Logrones, from wine-rich La Rioja, leap-frogged over Betis up to the third from bottom spot with this hard-fought win.

Raphael Meade hardly had a sight of goal all night for the visitors.

The other interesting game was the 1-1 draw between Sevilla and Zaragoza, which was supposed to bring together the latest big-name imports into Spanish football: Brazilian Josimar and Dutchman Frank Rijkaard, both on loan until this summer.

Joshimar played quite well for Sevilla, but the visitors were unable to use Rijkaard because of a muscle injury sustained in training.

The big match of the previous weekend was the Basque derby in San Sebastian, surprisingly won 1-0 by Bilbao.

The visitors' morale had been boosted days earlier by Howard Kendall agreeing to stay for next season, killing off speculation about a switch to Barca.

Joseba Aguirre scored the only goal after just nine minutes, putting away the rebound after heading against the post.

Real Sociedad pressed forward incessantly for the equaliser, but an excellent Bilbao defence allowed the locals precious few chances.

Real Madrid capitalised on the defeat of Toshack's team by stretching their lead at the top to seven points with a 2-0 beating of Espanol in the Bernabau.

Javier Clemente's defensive plans were eventually sunk in the second half by clever strikes from Michel and Hugo Sanchez.

It was the Mexican's 22nd league goal, and kept him well on course to be top marksman for the fourth successive year.

Atletico Madrid travelled down to Murcia needing a win to stay within reach of Real but their morale had already been hit by stories of a row between abrasive President Jesus Gil and coach Luis Cesar Menotti.

It was even rumoured that Menotti was considering the River Plate job because he'd got wind of Gil's plans to replace him with arch-enemy Clemente of Espanol.

Atletico were lucky to achieve a goal-less draw. But Gil was not so fortunate, being robbed of his wallet which contained more than £500.

Bernd Schuster is bound for Real Madrid, providing the Spanish federation allow three foreigners per club next season.

Real President Ramon Mendoza thought it wise — given Schuster's controversial record — to sound out his players about the probability of the West German joining them.

They told him they had no objection to Schuster coming, provided Milan Jankovic was offered a new contract for at least a year.

Even with three imports permitted, Schuster's arrival will continue to keep Jorge Valdano out in the cold.

It's exactly a year since the big Argentinian went down with hepatitis and had his place taken by Jankovic.

Valdano has obtained Spanish nationality, but still cannot play except in one of the foreigner berths. All of which has depressed him.

Says Valdano: "I've played more for my country than I have for my club and I don't see any chance of me getting back in at Real, despite being a Spanish citizen.

Settled

"On the one hand, I'd be sorry to leave here because my family is well settled and I've been given my own radio programme.

"But on the other hand, I'm tempted to move on and finish my playing career elsewhere."

Finally, a decision on FIFA's threatened suspension of the Spanish federation has been postponed until June 30.

The problem centres on the existence of a separate Spanish five-a-side federation, with complete autonomy from the original governing body, in clear contravention of FIFA's rule that all aspects of the game in any country must be controlled by a single organisation.

Jose Havelange will travel to Madrid in May in search of a solution.

Transfer period was busy

YUGOSLAVIA

YUGOSLAV fans eagerly waited for February 6 — the date which marked the end of the league's winter break.

The transfer period in January was busy with many players changing clubs and it will be interesting to see how they all fare.

Dinamo managed to capture two unsettled former national team players.

Stjepan Deveric came home to try to forget his unhappy days at Hajduk Split while ex-Zeljeznicar and Yugoslavia stopper Vlado Capljic's transfer to Partizan two seasons ago never really worked out.

Ciro Blazevic at Dinamo can now boast a first team squad studded with players of international calibre.

Most publicity, however, was attracted by Partizan's big spending on Pristina's best two attackers, veteran winger Zoran Batrovic and young goal-getter Vladislav Djukic.

Partizan also have surprise reinforcements from Asia. It had been rumoured for some time that the Belgrade club had contacted the Chinese FA but nobody really expected to see foreign players in the black and white stripes.

The only foreigner to really star in the Yugoslavian league was Australian Edi Krncevic, who had a short spell with Dinamo before moving to Germany and later to Belgium.

Now, Partizan have signed Jia Haiquen and Liu Xiugan, two of the best Chinese national team players.

Jia was Player of the Year twice (1984 and 1986) while Liu is the skipper of the Chinese squad.

Both played a major role in their national team's qualification for the Seoul Olympics.

Liu and Jia attracted the attention of West German and Dutch clubs but the authorities in Peking felt that Yugoslavia was ideal for their first international transfer.

Xunxiang Liu, an official in the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, said: "Partizan will have a much stronger fan club now — you can add a billion more supporters to your present 200,000!"

MLADEN BILIC

PORTO OUT IN THE CLEAR

PORTUGAL

JUST as in Spain, Italy, Holland and England, there is really only one horse left in the race for the Portuguese league title.

European and World Club champions Porto are seven points ahead of Benfica and so — despite their strugglings against Second Division Estoril in the cup — are cruising to their tenth championship.

But it's been the crisis-ridden Lisbon giants rather than consistent Porto who have been grabbing all the sporting headlines.

For a start, both Benfica and Sporting Lisbon are under new native managers — Toni and Antonio Morais respectively — after sacking foreigners Ebbe Skovdahl and Keith Burkinshaw in frustration at being unable to live with Fernando Gomes at the top.

Both Toni and Morais have made a decent start but it's an open secret that their respective presidents are already trying to line-up some more imported managerial talent for next season.

Whether either or both of them manage to remain in the hot seat beyond summer may depend on their contrasting results in Europe.

Benfica reached the Champions' Cup semis when they beat Anderlecht 2-0 overall but Sporting lost to Italian Second Division outfit Atalanta in the Recopa.

Football interest in the Portuguese capital was kept high by the local derby just four days after the European first legs.

The derby served up another large helping of satisfaction for Toni and dejection for poor Morais, as Sporting crashed 4-1 in Benfica's Estadio da Luz.

And this after Paulinho Cascavel had put the visitors a goal up after just seven minutes.

Within ten minutes of this shock start, Swede Mats Magnusson — now being hailed as an inspired signing by Ebbe Skovdahl — had given Benfica a 2-1 lead with two unstoppable headers.

Partner Rui Aguas made it 3-1 on the half hour and then rounded off a convincing display by the Lions with the fourth twenty minutes from time.

Afterwards, Morais tried to deflect criticism by claiming that things would have been different had he been able to line-up Frank Rijkaard, loaned out to Zaragoza for the rest of the season without having kicked a ball in anger for Sporting.

But there are many angry fans who doubt whether Rijkaard will ever wear the famous hoops of Sporting, suspecting that the board will sell him off to the highest Italian or Spanish bidder and so make an extremely quick killing.

DENMARK boss Sepp Piontek . . . talking tactics.

DENMARK

DANISH soccer fans have voted overwhelmingly in favour of retaining Copenhagen's Idraetsparken as the home of the national side.

A pitch battle has been waged through the winter close season about whether to update the ageing, but central Idraetsparken or build a new 'Stadium Denmark' in the suburb of Brondby.

Football magazine readers voted 81 per cent in favour of the £50 million renovation of the Idraetsparken to give it a new capacity of 50,000. The Bronby plan for a 'Coliseum' type arena might cost as much as £150 million for a 60,000 capacity crowd.

National team matches in Denmark have almost always been sold out in the 1980s following the unprecedented era of success under Sepp Piontek.

On a personal note, it would be sad to see the end of the Idraetsparken. It has a unique charming, friendly atmosphere which might not survive a transplant to the suburbs, even given the prestigious look of Brondby's plan.

The debate over stadiums illustrates the financial upheaval of the previously very amateur Danish game, as does the news that AGF, AaB and Ikast are to follow Brondby's example and go public on the stock exchange. All three clubs hope to raise about £700,000 to finance the full-time professionalism Brondby have already embraced.

Brondyby themselves could afford a relaxing winter break in Italy where they beat Pescara 2-1 in a friendly. Striker Claus Nielsen scored the winner and Pescara immediatly expressed an interest in buying the new Danish international. If a transfer deal goes through in the summer, Nielsen would be the 26th Dane to play in the Italian League.

There will definitely be a new foreigner in the Danish league which starts this month. He is 29-year-old Briton Rob McDonald, formerly of Hull City, Gronigen and PSV Eindhoven, who is joining Ikast.

JIM HOLDEN

SPARTA ALMOST THERE

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

JOSEF VENGLOS' could not have been disappointed by Czechoslovakia's performance in beating Spain 2-1 in Malaga.

He made a few changes to the squad inherited from Josef Masopust but saw Miguel Munoz's side go in to the lead through Julio Salinas after half an hour. Knofliček put the visitors level a minute before half time and at 64 minutes Kubik notched the winner.

The Spanish team seemed rather out of sorts and it was odd that attempts to get back on terms were through high balls with which the defence had no difficulty. Mislosko made good the error he had committed in helping Spain to their goal and both the federation and fans will be hoping this is a portent of better things to come.

With the championship almost certainly already in Sparta's pocket there is not much to look forward elsewhere — particularly after Vitkovice's UEFA Cup elimination by Espanol of Barcelona in the quarter-finals.

BOB VAUGHAN

MONACO THEIRS

SO what, you are entitled to ask, *is* happening to French football?

Grand panjandrums of the Press thundering about is boring inadequacy. Players themselves complaining that the game is becoming much too negative and dour.

Quarrels in the international camp; tensions between Henri Michel and the former darling of the midfield, Luis Fernandez; a terribly uneasy start to the second half of the season by Bordeaux with ppor results not only in the league — not a win in any of the first three matches — but an unconvincing draw at home in the European Cup to PSV of Eindhoven and ultimate elimination.

Are things really so bad? You won't be surrised to read that I am not so sure. Take, for example, the little tour Monaco made of England just before the endless break was over.

They began badly, it is true, well beaten by Aston Villa in Birmingham, but I think you might make allowances for them there. They were still, surely, getting the rust out of their limbs.

But then came a handy win at Gallowgate over Newcastle, on paper semmingly a tougher proposition than Villa; the whole trip rounded off with a most impressive 4-0 win at White Hart Lane against Spurs; a game at which your correspondent was present.

Not the full Spurs team, I will grant you. Fenwick, Waddle and Clive Allen were all on duty with the England team in Israel. But a team packed full of experienced players, and with youngsters who were surely eager to make a name.

Monaco took them to the cleaners. Fofana ridiculed the Tottenham defence with his pace in the opening minutes, to lob a splendid goal.

Glenn Hoddle, in the midfield, showed Spurs all they had been missing there this season, striking the bar in the second half with a shot hit very deliberately with the outside of his right foot.

And the other English international, Mark Hateley helped himself to a couple of goals and was quite irrepressible at the sharp point of the attack. Even if the second goal was a gift from a ridiculous back pass from the Dutch internationa, Johnny Metgod.

At sweeper, Patrick Battiston in his turn showed what the French team have been missing and lacking this season, Amoros was there to gallop down the flank, Ettori looked thoroughly capable in goal.

Was French football, you could not help asking yourself as you watched all this, really the easy touch it is meant to be, in England? Even if friendlies, I agree, are never quite th ereal thing, the true criterion?

Anyway, Monaco went back to a couple of goalless draws away from home, followed by a 4-1 home win against Cannes in the local derby; which wasn't, to be quite honest the easy exercise the score might suggest. Until rohr knocked in the third goal for Monaco 14 minutes from the end Cannes were in with a shout; and a loud one. Then they collapsed, and Hateley got his second of the game.

Racing Matra, it must be conceded, were another club who made a pretty poor start to the second half of the league season, but they had the excuse of important absences, especially that of their disaffected Uruguayan international, Enzo Francescoli, surely on his way to Juventus for

MARIO . . . BEEN A

FEYNOORD have agreed to sell their best player to Pisa, and they are glad to see him leave. Mario Been, nicknamed Mariodonna, will join Paul Elliot's Italian club next season. Pisa paid less than £300,000 for Been, a bargain, writes SIMON KUPER.

Been, 24, is of the same generation as leading Dutch internationals Marco van Basten, Gerald Vanenburg and John van't Schip. Together with them he played in the World Youth Cup in Mexico in 1983.

His perfectly-timed passes and free-kicks, his slight build, and his skill on the ball made him the favourite of the Mexican crowds. Everyone predicted a successful international career for him. In 1984 Dutch professionals voted him their Young Player of the Year.

But Been has not fulfilled his promise. He has won just one cap and his chances of playing in the coming European Championships are small.

His years at Feyenoord have been largely disappointing. He has been Feyenoord's playmaker since he was 20, but he has failed to halt the club's decline.

Recently trainees at a Dutch coaching course were asked to name a playmaker who wasn't functioning properly: 12 out of 16 immediately named Been.

Been's skills are always evident, but hsi managers complain that he is lazy and does no defensive work. Been admits this, but he feels that his creative qualities are more important.

"Backheels, one-twos, those are my strong points," he says. "Not chasing opponents like a half-wit. Other players can do that better."

Been is also attacked for not being self-critical enough. "He thinks he's a star," remarked his former manager Thys Libregts.

Feynoord's current manager Rinus Israel says: "Been's problem is his concentration. He's too easy-going, too easily pleased with himself."

Been received a lot of praise early on in his career, and this

ACO WIN R SPURS

FRANCE

from ANDRE DUCLOS

next season.

But contrast, admirers of Gérard Houllier, back in command at Paris Saint Germain after being embarrassingly kicked upstairs, were delighted with the improvement of a struggling ream.

Houllier seemed to have been doing more than whistling in the dark when he said the training session just completed had been excellent, the prospects were good. That draw away to Bordeaux was a true tonic, and it was followed by victory at home to Toulon.

Further consolation came from Marseille, another club to begin the new era with panache, taking due advantage of the benign draw given them in the UEFA Cup against the Finns of Rovaniemi; with a 1-0 "away" leg win at Lecce rather than in Finland. The weather down South in Italy, however, was so bitter that it might just as well, almost, have been in Finland.

Marseille's easy victory, with Papin lively and on the mark, at home to an ailing Nantes, their ealier win over Racing marks them as the club now most likely to give Monaco a run for their money; though they seem to have left it a bit late.

What's amiss with Nantes, whose popular, respected manager, (though not, it is true, by Argentine's Olarticoechea) Jean-Claude Suaudeau announced he would be on his way? Asked why Nantes the club with which he has had a thirty year association, has played so well but done so badly, Suaudeau has gloomily replied that it has to be down to the manager — "There's nowhere else to look."

But there are, he will admit under questioning, other reasons, besides. With new arriving players, he ways, it's not possible to inculcate the principles of play absorbed over the years by those who've been with the club from the beginning.

The 5-0 win against Marseille in September, for which Marseille took substantial revenge in March, does seem a very long way away.

Gloomy again, Suaudeau says that he hadn't the right publicly to water down the optimism which reigned at that time. Things, he said, obscurely, had changed.

It's been said that new players weren't cordially received in the club. Certainly Olarticoechea never settled down. He has said bitterly, back home in Buenos Aires, that he was only a second choice transfer in any case, and that he never hit it off with Suaudeau.

The manager in his turn responds tht stories of new arrivals not being accepted are exaggerated.

But spare some sympathy for him and the team, deprived practically all season of the services of another, better known, Argentine, the scorer of the World Cup winning goal of 1986, Burruchaga.

Back again, now, and already impressive, his earlier presence might have persuaded Suaudeau to stay in charge at the club to which he has contributed so much, for so long.

N AND GONE!

seems to have made him over-confident. Leo Beenhakker, currently manager of Real Madrid, says of Been: "I've known that boy since he was 12. A fantastically nice, saucy kid, completely fused with Feyenoord.

"He was funny and played football well, he scored all the time. Mario's environment adored him, and he was very self-assured."

Beenhakker is right to mention Been's sense of humour. He regularly displays this attribute on TV chat shows, and presents a comic Goal of the Week programme.

He is popular, especially among schoolchildren, who have twice voted him their favourite footballer. But the Dutch are inclined to regard humour as a flaw. They feel that Been's jokes show that he is not serious about football.

Been expects to prove his critics wrong in Italy next season — "The Italians play slowly, exactly my pace. Their style of play, the climate there, it suits me."

Paul Elliot's team may have bought one of Europe's best playmakers for peanuts. Not for nothing is Been known as Mariodonna.

But it is quite possible that he will always remain a might-have-been, a phenomenal footballer who wasted his ability.

USSR SETBACK — DEFEAT BY ITALY

SOVIET UNION

THE Soviet Union's lengthy training camp in Northern Italy did not bear the hoped-for fruit and the 4-1 defeat by Italy in Bari has left Valery Lobanovski with more thinking to do before the four-nation Easter competition in West Berlin and the European Championship.

What does seem certain is that the Blokhin transfer to Vorwärts Steyr, the Austrian Second Division club is off and the other senior players hoping to spent their declining years in the Golden West may find it rather less than likely agreement will be given, especially now that the Dynamo organisation has made its views known. There is not a 'Njet' but for the moment there is not a 'Da' in all quarters!

The Cup provides another talking point. The final was scheduled for the last week of February but did not take place. It appears that the "atmosphere conditions" in the Kishinev area where the final was scheduled was not suitable. More likely is the fear that there would be trouble between the supporters of Dynamo Kiev and Spartak Moscow. Last time they met, in the League, there was and for the final in the Moldavian capital some 100,000 ticket requests were received. Kishinev Stadium holds but 20,000 and news is awaited as to when the clash between Boskov's Spartak entertainers and Lobanovski's robots will be staged.

Before the spring action began 'Fedotov Club' statistics were published. The first Soviet footballer to score a century of goals was Grigory Fedotov and he is comemorated by the 'Club' bearing his name. To date 45 players can claim membership.

Blokhin is the clear leader but like many of the pre 1950s players the second-placed, Nikita Simonian, of Spartak Moscow, had the disadvantage of completing their career before the USSR played many full internationals and prior to prticipation in the European Cups.

Nevertheless they would all have had to go some to keep up with the Dynamo Kiev flyer. Fedotov remains in tenth place despite only having scored in the League and Cup. Konstantin Beskov is also high up the list and names from the 1950s such as Dementiev, a member of the 1945 party which visited Britain, and Ilyin also appear. One wonders if but for some seasons' suspension Streltsov might have made second place.

BOB VAUGHAN

THE FEDOTOV CLUB

	IN USSR 'A' TEAM	IN INTERN CUP GAMES	IN USSR LEAGUE CHAMP'SHIP	IN USSR CUP MATCHES	Total
1. O. BLOCHKIN	44	26	211	21	302
2. N. SIMONIAN	12	—	144	23	179
3. A. PONOMAREV	—	—	152	16	168
4. V. IVANOV	26	—	124	12	162
5. S. SOLOVIEV	—	—	143	18	161
6. E. MARKAROV	—	12	129	16	157
7. R. SHENGELIA	10	19	119	8	156
8. G. KHUSAINOV	4	4	115	19	142
9. E. STRELTSOV	25	3	100	14	142
10. Grigori FEDOTOV	—	—	132	9	141
11. A. GOGOBERIDSE	1	—	127	6	134
12. S. SALINIKOV	11	—	101	22	134
13. E. KALOEV	—	—	116	15	131
14. Y. GAVRILOV	13	18	91	6	128
15. K. BESKOV	—	—	106	21	127
16. B. PAYCHADSE	—	—	106	19	125
17. O. KOLAEV	1	—	119	4	124
18. V. BOBROV	5	—	97	19	121
19. V. VOROSHILOV	1	—	106	8	115
20. S. RODIONOV	8	16	86	5	115
21. A. YAKUBIN	—	3	105	6	114
22. S. METREVELI	12	—	84	17	113
23. K. OGANESIAN	8	2	93	10	113
24. V. GASSAEV	6	7	89	11	113
25. O. PROTASOV	12	4	95	2	113
26. A. BANISHEVSKY	19	—	81	11	111
27. G. NODIA	5	5	93	7	110
28. N. DEMENTIEV	—	—	91	19	110
29. B. KASAKOV	4	—	101	4	109
30. A. GRININ	—	—	89	20	109
31. S. ANDRYEV	13	2	82	12	109
32. G. KRASNITSKY	1	—	102	3	106
33. E. MALOFYEV	6	—	100	—	106
34. G. GUSAROV	4	—	91	11	106
35. A. ILYIN	16	—	84	6	106
36. V. NIKOLAEV	—	—	83	23	106
37. D. KIPIANI	9	10	78	9	106
38. V. STARUKHIN	—	3	84	18	105
39. F. CHERENKOV	16	10	75	4	105
40. B. ABDURAIMOV	—	—	95	9	104
41. V. DEMIN	—	—	86	16	102
42. V. KOLOTOV	22	8	62	10	102
43. M. SOKOLOVSKY	—	5	87	10	102
44. V. FEDOTOV	4	—	92	4	100
45. L. BURAK	10	14	63	13	100

WORLD SOCCER DIARY

KEIR RADNEDGE'S EXCLUSIVE GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE

SCHUSTER'S TAX BILL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

BELGIUM: Anderlecht, Champions' Cup quarter-finalists but long out of touch with the league leaders, sack coach Georges Leekens after just over half a season in charge. Controversial veteran Raymond Goethals, coach to Anderlecht in the late 1960s, takes over. Goethals is thus back in favour after being banned from working in Belgium for two years in 1984 following the Standard Liege bribes scandal.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

ARGENTINA: Racing beat Santos of Brazil 2-0 in their South American Supercup tie in Buenos Aires. Jose Inglesias (31 minutes) and Miguel Colombatti (47) score the goals in front of a 10,000 crowd. Three players — one Argentine and two Brazilians — are sent off.

HOLLAND: Surprise home defeat for Feyenoord, who go down 1-0 to Haarlem.

ITALY: A goal by Paolo Maldini after 31 minutes brings Italy victory over Finland in an under-21 friendly in Siena . . . Milan's Dutch star Ruud Gullit is suspended for one game by the federation after his expulsion against Ascoli. Also suspended is Verona's Danish striker, Preben Elkjaer.

JAPAN: Details are announced of a charity match to be staged in Tokyo on April 22 to raise funds for dependents of, and those suffering from, AIDS, and for research into a cure. Further matches are planned in Zimbabwe on May 29, Paris on September 10 and Los Angeles on October 10. Star names reported to have offered to play include Pele, Michel Platini, Paolo Rossi, Oleg Blokhin, Kevin Keegan, Johan Cruyff, Johan Neeskens, Pat Jennings, Eusebio and Allan Simonsen. The Tokyo match will be played in the new Tokyo Dome. It is hoped the series will raise £3 million.

KUWAIT: Kuwait beat the Czechoslovak Olympic XI 3-0 in a warm-up for the Gulf Cup. Goals came from Salah Hawawi (27 mins), Humoud Fulaitih (75) and Abdullah Balushi (83).

PORTUGAL: Portugal and Italy draw 0-0 in an Olympic qualifier in Lisbon. Portugal's star is goalkeeper Silvino. Italy go top of the group, ahead of East Germany on goal difference.

SPAIN: Spain field a weakened, experimental team and are beaten 2-1 at home, in Malaga, by Czechoslovakia . . . Spain also lose, this time by 1-0, at home to Holland in the first leg of the European under-21 quarter-final in Murcia.

WEST GERMANY: Werder Bremen make progress through the third round of the cup, beating Pforzheim 3-1.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

BRAZIL: Cruzeiro beat Independiente of Argentina 1-0, with a 33rd-minute goal from Heriberto, to reach the second round of the South American Supercup. Cruzeiro now face Peñarol or Argentinos Juniors.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: The federation formally informs UEFA that it would welcome the return of English clubs to European competition next season. CFU secretary Rudolf Bata says they have never had any security problems with English fans.

HOLLAND: Feyenoord forward Mario Been agrees to join Italian club Pisa at the end of the season. Been's disagreements with coach Rinus Israel are public knowledge. The fee for the 24-year-old is £300,000 . . . national team goalkeeper Hans Van Breuekelen becomes the latest PSV Eindhoven star to agree to a new contract (after Eric Gerets and Ronald Koeman). General manager Kees Ploegsma says Van Breukelen has signed for a further three seasons and that he intends to begin talks shortly with Berry Van Aerle and Gerald Vanenburg.

PORTUGAL: A shock for Dutch star Frank Rijkaard and his new club, Sporting Lisbon. The Portuguese federation rule that he cannot play in Portugal until next season. He was signed beyond the deadline for foreign players.

SPAINL: Bernd Schuster is the subject of new controversy as the Spanish tax authorities threaten court action over an alleged tax debt of £33,000.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

FRANCE: Leaders Monaco draw 0-0 at Laval.

PORTUGAL: Sporting agree to let Frank Rijkaard go on loan to Spanish club Zaragoza for the rest of the season . . . Vitoria Setubal coach Malcolm Allison is banned from the touchline for seven matches because of referees' complaints about his "gestures". Allison says he will use a two-way radio from the directors box to the bench to pass on instructions.

WEST GERMANY: Five first division matches are postponed. Four matches fall to the icy weather and one more because 13 Eintracht Frankfurt players have flu and/or a stomach virus.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

BELGIUM: Anderlecht, now under Raymond Goethals, lose 2-1 at home to Beerschot. Dutch defender Adri Van Tiggelen is sent off in the first half for punching Beerschot forward Dirk Goossens in the face. Anderlecht go ahead through Grun in the fifth minute but are overtaken in the last 15 minutes through goals by Goossens and veteran Willy Wellens.

BULGARIA: CSKA Sredets suffer their second defeat of the season, by 2-1 away to Sliven, and now lead Vitosha by only one point.

EAST GERMANY: The league restarts with good news for champions Dynamo Berlin. Their match is postponed because of bad weather, but title rivals Lok Leipzig lose 1-0 away to Wismut Aue.

FRANCE: Bordeaux are held goalless at home by Paris Saint-Germain, so the other capital club, Matra Racing, move into second place behind Monaco thanks to a 1-0 home win over Lens. Ben Mabrouk scores the goal which lifts Racing to within three points of Monaco.

ITALY: The federation votes to ease restrictions on foreign players. From next season three, instead of two, will be the permitted maximum for first division teams. From 1989-90, second division teams will each be permitted to sign one foreigner (the only foreigners currently allowed in the second division are those contracted to relegated teams). The size of the first division is to be increased from 16 to 18 clubs and national manager Azeglio Vicini's contract is extended until 1990.

PORTUGAL: The 'Europeans' bring their matches forward 24 hours. Benfica draw 1-1 away to Maritimo while Sporting beat Academica 4-0.

SPAIN: Barcelona upset second-placed Atletico Madrid with a 2-0 win in Madrid. Gary Lineker scores both goals, the first created by Bernd Schuster. Atletico are now six points adrift of leaders Real Madrid, who draw 1-1 away to Sevilla. Espanol beat Valladolid 4-2, thanks to a hat-trick from Sebastian Losada, on loan from Real Madrid.

WEST GERMANY: In the four matches which go ahead, the top three clubs all maintain their places: Werder Bremen win 1-0 away to Bochum, Bayern Munich thrash FC Homburg 6-0 and Köln draw 1-1 at Bayer Uerdingen. Rolf Wohlfarth scores twice for Bayern Munich.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

BELGIUM: Mechelen draw 0-0 away to Saint-Truiden so Antwerp pull level at the top thanks to a 2-0 home win over third-placed Club Brugge.

GREECE: Leaders Larissa are under ever greater pressure. They draw 0-0 away to Panseraikos and are now only one point ahead of AEK (2-1 winners over fading OFI) and PAOK (4-1 winners over Panathinaikos).

HOLLAND: PSV bounce back to form with a 6-1 away win over Volendam. Wim Kieft scores a second-half hat-trick.

ITALY: No change at the top — Napoli win 1-0 at Pescara, while Milan beat fading Sampdoria 2-1 despite the absence of suspended Ruud Gullit. Roma are third after a 2-0 victory over Juventus which places the future of Juve coach Rino Marchesi in serious doubt. Stefano Desideri scores both Roma goals, in the 60th and 75th minutes.

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand lose 1-0 to Brazil Under-19s in Wellington, despite having made nine changes from the team beaten 3-0 in the previous match in the series. The winner is scored by Marcelo, with a diving header in the 89th minute.

PORTUGAL: Porto beat Varzim 3-0 to stretch their lead over Benfica to seven points. Porto skipper Fernando Gomes scores a hat-trick, including one penalty.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29

FRANCE: Nantes coach Jean-Claude Suaudeau announces that his contract will not be renewed at the end of the season at his own request. Suaudeau, former Nantes midfielder who has been team boss for six years, is expected to revert to his former position as youth section manager.

URUGUAY: Gustavo Poyet, youth international centre-forward of River Plate of Montevideo, talks over a transfer with officials of French club Nice. Poyet, with French family background though his father was a star basketball player in Uruguay, is also wanted by Montevideo giant Nacional and Peñarol. Nice think they may be able to swing French citizenship for him as an added inducement.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 1

AUSTRALIA: In the Oceania Olympic qualifiers, Taiwan beat Western Samoa 5-0 with goals from Maio (three), Chien and Pan.

ITALY: RoPs of Finland have to take their Cup-winners' Cup quarter-final home leg to Lecce because of arctic weather. They lose 1-0 to Marseille . . . the Italian players' union decide to strike on April 17 in both first and second division as a protest against the forthcoming easing of player import regulations.

SPAIN: Osasuna lose 2-0 to Liverpool in a friendly match played as part of the Sammy Lee transfer deal. Ray Houghton (23) and player-manager Kenny Dalglish (79) score for Liverpool. Lee is ruled out of the Osasuna team by injury.

SWITZERLAND: The Cup-winners' Cup tie between Young Boys Bern and holders Ajax Amsterdam has to be postponed for a week because of a frozen pitch . . . FIFA's head office in Zurich formally issues statements from the executive committee, which met earlier in the day in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Decision One is to enforce the use of shinguards in all FIFA competition matches, as a safeguard against the transmission of AIDS; Decision Two is to put back from June 30 to July 4 the decision day on who hosts the 1994 World Cup; Decision Three is a £5,000 fine on the Australian FA for contravening advertising regulations; Decision Four is to reappraise the status of the members of the Oceania confederation; Decision Five is to crack down on 'stray' television coverage.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

ACTION: The first legs of the Champions' Cup, Cup-winners' Cup and UEFA Cup quarter-finals are completed — with Bayern Munich's 3-2 victory over Real Madrid in the Champions' Cup the Match of the Day. Biggest crowd is the 100,000 in Lisbon who see Benfica beat Anderlecht 2-0.

BELGIUM: The Belgian Justice Ministry says that the Heysel Trial will finally start on April 18.

BRAZIL: FIFA's decision to delay the 1994 World Cup hosting decision infuriates CBF officials. CBF president Octavio Pinto Guimaraes says: "I hate to say this, but I think the date was changed on purpose so FIFA could announce that the United States had got the World Cup on American Independence Day."

GREECE: The Olympic teams of Greece and East Germany draw 1-1 in Argos thanks to goals from Alexis Alexiou (55 pen) for Greece and Wagel (86) for East Germany . . . in a European under-21 quarter-final first leg, Greece and Czechoslovakia draw 1-1 in Athens in front of a 3,000 crowd.

ITALY: Juventus manager Francesco Morini denies, on behalf of Ian Rush, newspaper stories that the Wales striker will be transferred to Glasgow Rangers . . . a shock for Napoli, as the Italian cup-holders are toppled by Torino. Napoli lose 3-2 at home despite two superb goals from Diego Maradona and go out 4-3 on aggregate. Into the semi-finals with Torino go Sampdoria, Inter and Juventus (who beat Avellino with a goal from Sergio Brio).

MOROCCO: Morocco, warming up for the African Nations' Cup, beat East Germany 2-1 in Mohammedia.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

FRANCE: French football comes under double attack from the Ivory Coast over problems regarding African imports. The Ivory Coast federation protests to FIFA that the French federation is trying to 'steal' the Auxerre player, Otokore. A second complaint is being prepared because Monaco are refusing to release winger Youssouf Fofana to play with the Ivory Coast in the African Nationals' finals.

HOLLAND: Johan Cruyff denies reports that he will take over as coach of Barcelona. He says: "I am not going to Barcelona — or anywhere else, for that matter."

ITALY: Zbigniew Boniek, Roma's Polish veteran, says there is a "90 per cent chance" he will retire at the season's end.

PERU: Tragedy-hit Alianza sign two World Cup veterans, Guillermo La Rosa (from Argentinos Juniors) and Jose Velasquez (from Deportes !quique of Chile) for the championship play-off round.

YUGOSLAVIA: Two Chinese players arrive in Belgrade to join Partizan. They are the first two national team members to be allowed abroad. The two are Chinese captain Jia Xiuchuan and striker Liu Haiguan. Jia was Chinese Footballer of the Year in 1984 and 1986.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

ITALY: Sergio Campana, president of the players' union, explains why a strike is planned for April 17. He claims the Italian federation president, Antonipo Matarrese, misled him into thinking that at no time would rules be eased to introduce foreign players to the second division (beyond those brought in through the accident of relegation).

SWITZERLAND: UEFA confirm that the replayed Cup-winners' Cup tie between Young Boys Bern and holders Ajax Amsterdam will take place the following Wednesday (March 9).

WEST GERMANY: Alarming rumours for Bayern Munich fans — that reserve goalkeeper Raimond Aumann and forward Michael Rummenigge will sign for Hamburg at the season's end . . . Günter Siebert, president of Schalke, travels to Madrid for discussions on a possible £2.2million transfer of Olaf Thon to Atletico.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

FRANCE: Two goals for Mark Hateley as leaders Monaco march on thanks to a 4-1 win in the Rivier derby against Cannes.

HOLLAND: Unstoppable PSV, this time beating VVV Venlo 5-0 with four goals coming from Eric Viscaal.

ITALY: Inter president Ernesto Pellegrini stirs up the transfer market with a newspaper interview claiming that "we have not yet quite concluded" the capture of Lothar Matthäus from Bayern Munich; that a decision on whether to bid for Bayern's prospective new arrival, Rabah Madjer (currently on loan to Valencia) must wait until after Bayern's European clash with Real Madrid; and that there may be something in rumours that Inter also want Juventus' Michael Laudrup.

SPAIN: Bilbao say Howard Kendall has agreed a contract extension until 1990. This follows attempts to lure him away to Barcelona. Kendall celebrates by watching his men win 1-0 away to Basque neighbours Real Sociedad.

SWITZERLAND: One famous exile triumphs over another. As the championship race gets under way Servette (with Karl-Heinz Rummenigge) thrash St-Gallen (with Marco Tardelli) by 4-1. John Eriksen scores a hat-trick for Servette . . . Uli Stielike, out four months with a knee injury which had threatened his career, makes his comeback as an 80th-minute substitute in Xamax Neuchatel's 3-1 win away to Lausanne. In those ten minutes Stielike scores the goal of the match.

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

AUSTRALIA: In the Oceania Olympic qualifiers, New Zealand beat Taiwan 1-0 and Australia beat Israel 2-0.

BELGIUM: The Antwerp collapse carries on as they are thrashed 5-0 by Liege. Antwerp and Club Brugge are now two points adrift of leaders Mechelen.

ITALY: Napoli suffer a second home defeat in four days. This time by 2-1 against Roma — Napoli's second defeat in the championship. Giannini and Oddi score for Roma, Careca collects a late consolation for the champions who now lead Milan by 'only' four points . . . Juventus manage to beat Inter 1-0 with a welcome goal for Magrin.

PORTUGAL: Fernando Gomes follows up his hat-trick of the previous week by scoring two more goals as Porto beat Braga 3-0. Porto lead Benfica by seven points.

SPAIN: Michel and Hugo Sanchez score the goals as Real Madrid beat Español 2-0 . . . Barcelona are held goalless at home by Sabadell and Atletico Madrid are held 0-0 at Murcia, where president Jesus Gil had his wallet (containing the equivalent of £500 in cash) 'lifted' from his pocket in the hospitality suite! . . . Betis' new signing, Raphael Meade, denies ever having been in trouble with the law in London during his days with Arsenal.

SWEDEN: Obituary: Harry Lundahl, former Swedish international and national manager, dies in Gothenburg aged 82.

UNITED STATES: In the Miami Cup, Florida, the Colombian club Atletico Nacional beat the US national team 3-2 in the final. In the third-place match in the Joe Robbie stadium, Chile's Colo-Colo beat Millionarios of Bogota 2-1.

WEST GERMANY: National team chief Franz Beckenbauer says he is fed up with having to deny any possibility of a recall for Bernd Schuster. Beckenbauer says: "Schuster was superb against Leverkusen. But I could have been as well with all the space they gave him."

MONDAY, MARCH 7

FRANCE: Champions Bordeaux inquire about the possibility of buying Ian Rush from Juventus.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

EAST GERMANY: Bernd Wunderlich, suspended for 18 months for negotiating an officially-unauthorised transfer (from Vorwärts to second division Greifswalder Bodden) reappears — with Hansa Rostock.

SPAIN: The Bernabeu stadium is announced as the April 13 venue for a Red Cross/famine relief charity match between Europe and the Rest of the World.

SWITZERLAND: Aziz Bouderbala, unsettled Moroccan midfielder, agrees to leave Sion for Racing Club of Paris, with whom he signs a two-year contract.

WEST GERMANY: National squad defender Stefan Reuter signs an option contract to quit Nürnberg at the season's end for Bayern Munich.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

ARGENTINA: Hooligan trouble; 89 fans are arrested after trouble breaks out between rival supporters during a 3-1 win for Newell's Old Boys against Racing.

HOLLAND: Italy step up their bid for a place in the Olympic finals when they beat Holland 1-0 in Groningen. Pietro Paolo Virdis scores the winner after 61 minutes.

ITALY: Torino coach Gigi Radice is banned from the touchline for four matches for insulting and protesting to a referee.

SPAIN: Vicente Cantatore, Argentine coach to Valladolid, denies rumours that he will be the new boss of Barcelona (after Cruyff, Kendall, etc) . . . Valencia draw 1-1 with Real Madrid, Barcelona lose 1-0 in Mallorca.

SWITZERLAND: Holders Ajax beat Young Boys 1-0 in Bern in their rescheduled Cup-winners' Cup quarter-final first leg tie. John Bosman scores the winner in the 44th

● *Continued overleaf*

DAY-BY-DAY NEWS REVIEW

WORLD SOCCER DIARY

KEIR RADNEDGE'S EXCLUSIVE GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE

FIRST DEFEAT FOR PSV

● *Continued from previous page*

minute . . . UEFA's disciplinary committee ban Verona's Danish striker, Preben Elkjaer, from the UEFA Cup return against Werder Bremen because of his confrontation with Bremen officials after the first leg, which Verona lost 1-0 at home.

WEST GERMANY: Hamburg beat Bayern Munich 2-1 to reach the semi-finals of the cup. Also through are Werder Bremen, who beat Viktoria Aschaffenburg 3-1.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

ITALY: Yugoslav coach Vujadin Bostok signs a two-year extension of his contract with Sampdoria of Genoa.

LIBYA: At least 20 fans are trampled to death when a stand collapses in Tripoli during a match between Libya and Malta. One witness, the Maltese star Carmel Busuttil, says: "It was the worst day of my life. I will find it hard to start playing football again."

SPAIN: Atletico Madrid players admit they have said goodbye to their championship dreams after losing 2-0 at home to Real Sociedad. Baquero and Beguiristain score the goals . . . Bernd Schuster gives evidence for more than two hours to a Barcelona court concerning charges of tax evasion.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

BELGIUM: Revival signs at last from Anderlecht as the champions beat Winterslag 4-0.

NEPAL: A new stadium tragedy, this time in Katmandu. Some 73 fans die and hundreds are hurt when crowds find exit doors locked as they try to escape a sudden hailstorm during a local championship match.

POLAND: Gornik Zabrze, midweek cup quarter final first leg winners away to Slask Wroclaw, pursue their bid for the double by drawing 1-1 away to Gornik Walbrzych in the league. Gornik Zabrze lead LKS Lodz by eight points.

SPAIN: Real Madrid, without the rested Butragueno and Chendo, still manage to thrash Bilbao 5-0. Santillana (two), Michel (two) and Hugo Sanchez score the goals.

WEST GERMANY: Stuttgart beat league leaders Werder Bremen 2-1. Fritz Walter scores the winner in the 73rd minute.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

AUSTRALIA: In the continuing Oceania Olympic qualifiers, Israel thrash Taiwan 5-1 (two goals each for Brailowsky and Malmilian) and Australia beat New Zealand 3-1.

AUSTRIA: The championship section opens with FK Austria thrashing Grazer AK 5-1. Rapid's match with Wiener SK is postponed.

BULGARIA: CSKA, league leaders at halfway, carry on collapsing. They go down 3-0 away to Lokomotiv Plovdiv and are now three points behind leaders and deadly rivals, Sredets.

HOLLAND: PSV suffer their first league defeat of the season, falling 2-1 away to Feyenoord. Mario Been and Andre Hoekstra score for Feyenoord. PSV are still eight points clear of Ajax.

ITALY: Out-of-touch Napoli are held goalless by bottom-of-the-table Empoli. Milan draw 1-1 at Torini but Roma maintain their improvement with a 1-0 away win against Como.

MOROCCO: Hosts Morocco are surprisingly held 1-1 by Zaire in the Opening Match at the African Nations' Cup finals in Casablanca. Merry Krimau converts a 42nd-minute penalty for Morocco, while Lutonadia grabs a last-minute equaliser. In the other match of the day, Algeria are held 1-1 by Ivory Coast.

PORTUGAL: Only a late goal from Gomes saves Porto's unbeaten record as they draw 1-1 with struggling Covilha. Then Gomes misses a penalty!

SWITZERLAND: UEFA ban Verona defender Silvano Fontolan for one year after he is found to have failed a doping test following the UEFA Cup defeat by Werder Bremen.

YUGOSLAVIA: Velez lose 1-0 away to Partizan and Sloboda Tuzla take over as surprise league leaders, ahead of Red Star on goal difference.

MONDAY, MARCH 14

FRANCE: Toulouse midfielder Jean-Philippe Durand is the only new name in the 16-man squad against Spain in Bordeaux on March 23. Squad: Bats, Martini, Amoros, Ayache, Basile Boli, Le Roux, Kastendeuch, Bijotat, Ferreri, Fernandez, Passi, Toure, Durand, Papin, Cantona, Fargeon.

ITALY: Inter deny persistent reports and rumours that they are poised to sign Algerian World Cup star Rabah Madjer. Madjer is apparently bound for Bayern Munich and Inter spokesman Valberto Niliani says Inter "do not want to compromise relations with Bayern over the future of Lothar Matthäus." . . . Verona say they will appeal against the dope test ban on Silvano Fontolan because "Fontolan took a substance permitted by the Italian league although not by UEFA."

MOROCCO: Group B of the African finals gets under way with Cameroon beating holders Egypt in a repeat of the 1986 final. Roher Milla scores the only goal after four minutes in front of a 10,000 crowd in Rabat. In the other match, Nigeria beat Kenya 3-0.

POLAND: In a surprise announcement from Warsaw, the FA say that Roma's Zbigniew Boniek will come out of international retirement for the Belfast international against Northern Ireland. Coach Wojciech Lazarek says Boniek will play sweeper. Squad: Wandzik. Jankowski, Kubicki, Boniek, Wenclewski, Lukasik, Krol, Wdowczyk, Cisek, Urban, Tarasiewicz, Karasz, Kaczmarek, Dziekanowski, Kosecki, Ziober, Araskiewicz.

SPAIN: Real Madrid reveal details of their Champions' Cup security operation for the return against Bayern Munich. Fences nearly 20 feet high will be erected behind both goals and there will be 400 national police plus more than 100 private security personnel on duty in and around the Bernabeu stadium. On the black market tickets with a face value of £35 are being sold for £175.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA prepare to issue stringent new crowd safety regulations in the wake of the Libya and Nepal disasters.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

FRANCE: Marseille become the first of the season's European club semi-finalists when they beat RoPs of Finland 4-0 for a 5-0 aggregate success.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

ACTION: In the Champions' Cup, Real Madrid, Steaua, PSV and Benfica all reach the semi-finals; in the Cup-winners' Cup holders Ajax, Mechelen and Atalanta all join Marseille; in the UEFA Cup Werder Bremen, Espanol, Club Brugge and Bayer Leverkusen (surprise winners in Barcelona) reach the last four.

BELGIUM: The start of the Heysel trials will not now be until September. Some 26 fans are accused along with an official from the Belgium soccer authorities and two state police officers.

BRAZIL: Gremio beat Boca Juniors 2-0 in the South American Supercup and make sure of a place in the quarter-finals.

FRANCE: France beat Italy 2-1 in a European under-21 quarter-final thanks to goals in the last nine minutes from Paille and Sauzee on Nancy.

GREECE: Supporters of surprise league leaders Larissa block the main road from Athens after a federation tribunal penalises Larissa four points because striker Georgiou Tsingov failed a dope test after the 2-1 home win over Panathinaikos on December 27. The federation say Larissa must lose the two match points to Panathinaikos and must also be deducted two points as punishment. Tsingov, meanwhile, may face extra punishment because codeine — which was the substance involved — is legally banned in Greece.

HUNGARY: Hungary beat Turkey 1-0 in Budapest before a meagre 1,000 fans. Jozsef Kiprich scores a last-minute winner.

MOROCCO: Hosts Morocco beat Algeria 1-0 before a 70,000 crowd in Casablanca. In the other Group A game, Ivory Coast and Zaire draw 1-1.

POLAND: Poland beat Greece 5-1 in the Olympic qualifiers in Rybnik. Jan Furtok scores a hat-trick, including one penalty.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

GREECE: Angry Larissa fans block the main streets for a second say in the dope cast protest. More than 10,000 fans turn out for the demonstration which causes traffic jams up to 20 miles long. Two trains are also immobilised in the main station by burning debris. Larissa officials appeal against the decision by sports disciplinary supremo Vassilis Andronikos. Government sports spokesman Sotiris Kostopulos says: "The state is doing all it can to advance the appeal hearing within the next few days."

HOLLAND: Dutch boss Rinus Michels announces his squad for Wembley. It is: Van Breukelen, Hiele, Spelbos, Troost, Koeman, Silooy, Muhren, Wouters, Van Aerle, Vanenburg, Kruzen, Gullit, Bosman and Van't Schip.

MALTA: New national boss Horst Heese names his squad for the March 23 date with Scotland: Cluett, Calleja, Alex Azzopardi, Brincat, Buttigieg, Scicluna, Edwin Camilleri, Laferia, Lowell, Micallef, Scerri, Refalo, Vella, Besuttil, Carabott, Degiorgio.

MOROCCO: Nigeria and Cameroon draw 1-1 and Egypt beat Kenya 3-0 in the African finals.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

EAST GERMANY: Dresden keep up their championship challenge with a well-earned 3-1 win over Magdeburg.

GREECE: A new dope scandal erupts. Olympiakos' new Uruguayan forward, Diego Aguirre, is found to have used a banned substance during a 2-0 home win over Verria on February 14. Aguirre joined Olympiakos from Peñarol only in December. He risks a two-year ban.

SWITZERLAND: The draw for the European club semi-finals is made in Geneva. Champions' Cup: Real Madrid v PSV Eindhoven; Steaua v Benfica. Cup-winners' Cup: Marseille v Ajax; Mechelen v Atalanta. UEFA Cup: Ckub Brugge v Español; Bayer Leverkusen v Werder Bremen (Brugge of Espanol will stage the first leg of the final). Matches to be played on April 6 and 20.

WEST GERMANY: In an advanced league match, Waldhof Mannheim surprisingly beat hosts Borussia Mönchengladbach 1-0. It is Borussia's fifth consecutive defeat.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

AUSTRIA: Leaders Rapid are held 1-1 at home by Sturm Graz but second-placed FK Austria fail to take advantage as they lose 3-1 to Admira Wacker.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Sparta beat third-placed Banik Ostrava 1-0. Sparta now lead Dunajska Streda by seven points and lead Banik by nine.

EAST GERMANY: Dresden are now one point clear at the top as Dynamo Berlin (at Brandenburg) and Lokomotiv Leipzig (away to Hansa Rostock) are held to draws.

FRANCE: Mark Hateley misses a penalty as Monaco lose 3-1 away to champions and title contenders Bordeaux. But Monaco are still three points clear. Jose Toure, Zlatko Vujovic and Dominique Bijotat score Bordeaux's goals.

WEST GERMANY: Leaders Bremen are held 3-3 at home in a thriller by Bayer Leverkusen. Bremen remain two points clear as Bayern Munich are held 1-1 in Frankfurt — Bayern have not won in Frankfurt in 17 years.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

ARGENTINA: Newell's Old Boys prove their old star status by staying top of the league thanks to a 4-0 victory over Boca Juniors.

BELGIUM: Club Brugge beat Mechelen 2-1 so there are three teams top of the table and level on 39 points from 26 games: Club Brugge, Mechelen and Antwerp.

BRAZIL: Flamengo beat Port Alegre comfortably by 3-0 and, with 16 points, lead Vasco da Gama by two points in the Carioca league.

GREECE: AEK, promoted leaders in midweek after the Larissa verdict, beat Verria and go back top of the table.

ITALY: Careca scores twice as Napoli return to form and crush Como 3-0 away. Careca now has 11 goals, one fewer than Maradona.

MOROCCO: Cameroon and Kenya draw 0-0 . . . and so do Egypt and Nigeria in the African finals.

NEW ZEALAND: Australia draw 0-0 with Israel in a violent match in the Olympic qualifying series. Two players are sent off: (McDowell of Australia and Ohana for Israel), six are booked and there are 71 free kicks — 64 of them for fouls. Aussie manager Frank Arok says: "It was war out there, and they started it." In the other match New Zealand beat Taiwan 2-0 but Australia still lead the table.

SPAIN: Real Madrid march on, winning 3-1 against neighbours Atletico Madrid who have Portugal star, Paulo Futre, sent off . . . Barcelona lose again, this time by 3-1 away to Logrones. Gary Lineker scores Barcelona's only goal from a 64th-minute penalty.

MORE NEXT MONTH

WORLD SOCCER'S INFORMATION DESK. . .

SEMI-FINALS time in the three European club competitions is an appropriate moment for at least one of the new publications which are appearing on the bookshelves in the High Street.

That is *Hockings' European Cups* (by Ron Hockings; published by Kenneth Mason, The Old Harbourmasters, Emsworth, Hant PO10 7DD; at £9.95).

Noted Chelsea fanatic, Hockings has clearly been drowning his sorrows of late by putting hours of time and effort into compiling a neat and comprehensive statistical record of all those clubs which have competed at one stage or another in the three European club competitions.

Country-by-country, and thence club-by-club, Hockings provides not only each team's results in Europe but notes on foundation dates, colours, stadia and domestic achievements. It all goes to completing a reference work which should become a benchmark for all those who enjoy — or, professionally, need — a record check.

Two other publications to mention:

The first is *Goalkeeping in Action* by Peter Shilton (Stanley Paul, 62 Chandos Place, London WC2N 4NW; £5.95) which is a well-illustrated paperback guide to the arts and intricacies of goalkeeping.

Also, the *South African Soccer Annual '88* (City Press, Drum Publications, 204 Eloff Street Ext., Selby, Johannesburg). This is a well-illustrated, excellently-documented annual covering both amateur and professional soccer in South Africa as well as general African sports politics issues.

As City Press editor Percy Qoboza writes in his forward: "In some small way, we hope, this annual will contribute to a better understanding of South African soccer as a whole."

IN ANSWER TO . . .

DOUGLAS LOW, Kirkcaldy, Fife: The reason the Olympic Games football tournament lacks mainstream significance is because of the hybrid nature of the player qualification rules. For instance, South American and European nations are fobidden to use players who have appeared in qualifying of finals matches of World Cup tournaments. It is now immaterial whether players are amateur or professional — which makes the continued absence of a British team something of a surprise.

PAUL JAMES, Westland, Derby: Last season Gary Lineker scored 17 league goals for Barcelona; Tony Woodcock scored 10 league goals for Köln in West Germany. Of the ex-Liverpool players mentioned, Terry McDermott has been playing in Cyprus and Ray Kennedy was forced to retire because of illness.

LIVIO BENINCA CIMA, Villa di Villa: The address of the Football Association of Japan is 1-1-1 Jinnan, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo. The address of the Icelandic club Leiftur is Idrottafelagid Leiftur, Olafsfjordur, Iceland. As for the various Jewish set-up, most of the clubs are offshoots of political youth organisations. Thus the Hapoel clubs owe their allegiance to the Histadrut labour movement dominated by the Labour Party; the Beitar clubs are linked to the Beitar youth movement of the rightist Herut party. The Maccabi clubs are also all related by a national organisation.

JOE FUMO, Shorewood, Wisconsin, US: We have received no information yet about European championship TV plans for the US.

RUNE HAUKEBO, Molde, Norway: It is understood that the publishers of the recent Michel Platini autobiography are planning an English language edition. It will be reviewed here on publication.

VALENTIN MANTULIN, Pearl River, New York, US: Write to FIFA secretary-general Sepp Blatter c/o FIFA, PO Box 85, 8030 Zurich, Switzerland.

TONY ATOLICO, Bethnal Green, London: In the 1984-85 UEFA Cup, QPR played KR Reykjavik in the Laugardalsvollur stadium in Reykjavik and Partizan in the JNA stadium in Belgrade.

CHARLES HETTERICH, Chicago, US: The only way to check video compatibility is by writing to the producers/manufacturers of the tapes in question or by consulting the soccer video specialists who advertise in our Shop Window.

TONY O'CONNELL, Ballyfesmol, Dublin: The Hungarian federation have produced several booklets about football in Hungary, timed to coincide with their team's presence in the World Cup finals of 1978 and 1982. The respected coach, Arpaid Csanadi (a playing contemporary of Bozsik, Puskas, etc) wrote a coaching manual entitled simply *Soccer*, published in English by Corvina Kiado, 1051 Budapest, Vorosmarty ter 1. As for the Hungarian team which beat England at Wembley in 1953, this was: Grosics — Buzansky, Lorant, Lantos — Bozsik, Zakarias — Budai, Kocsis, Hidegkuti, Puskas, Czibor. All the players come from Honved, except Buzansky (Banyasz), Lantos, Zakarias and Hidekuti (all Voros Lobogo/Red Banner/MTK). The autobiographical *Captain of Hungary* by Puskas, is still available occasionally through second-hand booksellers.

J. L. PALFREY, Worthing, W. Sussex: Ticket information about the 1990 World Cup finals will not be available to the FA, let alone to fans, until about a year beforehand. Then contact both the FA and travel agencies.

DAVID MAIDEN, Glasgow: Valladolid finished tenth in the Spanish league last season with the following record: Played 44, won 15, drawn 11, lost 18, goals for 42, against 45, points total 41.

JUDE TURPIN, Limavady, co Derry, N. Ireland: Paolo Rossi (finished last season as Verona player but has now retired because of further knee injury problems.

EURO RESULTS . . . EURO RESULTS . . . EURO RESULTS . .

CHAMPIONS' CUP

Quarter-finals, first legs (March 2)

Bayern Munich 3 (Pflügler 40, Eder 45, Wohlfarth 50)
Real Madrid 2 (Butragueño 88, Hugo Sanchez 90)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Casarin (It).

Bayern: Pfaff — Flick, Brehme, Eder, Nachtweih, Pflügler, Augenthaler, Mathäus, Hughes, Wohlfarth, Kögl.

Madrid: Buyo — Chendo, Tendillo, Sanchis, Camacho — Martin Vasquez, Jankovic, Michel, Gordillo — Butragueño (Santillana 89), Hugo Sanchez.

THIS was the match which lived up to all expectations. Exciting football from start to dramatic finish. And the legend of Real Madrid continues to live thanks to the remarkable way they took their two late, late chances to turn all predictions upside down. Madrid were outsiders on the night — plagued by the memories of the previous year's rough-house, by their own vulnerability to West German teams and by the icy conditions. Bayern went ahead after 40 minutes, just when Madrid appeared to have found their feet. No-one attacked a corner from Lothar Matthäus and Hans Pflügler shot home. One minute into first-half injury time and Mark Hughes (being watched by a Manchester United delegation) laid on No 2 for World Cup veteran Norbet Eder. Five minutes into the second half and it appeared all over. This time Roland Wohlfarth was the scorer after Francisco Buyo mishandled a Matthaüs free kick. Madrid failed to buckle now. Their pride and spirit sent them into attack and now it was Bayern who began to look hesitant. In the 88th minute Eder misplaced a backpass and Emilio Butragueño shot home. Two more minutes and it was the turn of Mexican Hugo Sanchez to shoot beneath Jean-Marie Pfaff from a free kick.

Benfica 2 (Magnusson 15, Chiquinho 20)
Anderlecht 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 100,000. **Ref:** Krchnak (Cz).

Benfica: Silvino — Velsoso, Mozer, Alvaro — Chiquinho (Nunes 79), Elzo, Diamantino, Pacheco (Wando 80) — Magnusson, Rui Aguas.

Anderlecht: Munaron — Grun, Van Tiggelen, Keshi, Andersen, Janssen, De Groote, Gudjohnsen, Marchoul (Demol 87), Nilis (Krncevic 62), Vervoort.

BENFICA sacked their manager, Ebbe Skovdahl, just before Christmas; Anderlecht sacked their coach, Georges Leekens, nine days before this match which attracted the best crowd of the round. Benfica threatened to take the Belgians apart in the opening quarter of the game. First Sweden's Mats Magnusson headed home a cross from Pacheco, then Brazilian midfielder Chiquinho converted a pass from Rui Aguas. Chiquinho, Aguas and Magnusson came close to further goals and Anderlecht were saved, in the closing stages, by the woodwork, by the reflexes of keeper Jacky Munaron and by a bad miss from Magnusson in the very last minute. Anderlecht created just one opening: Luc Nilis forcing a spectacular save from Silvino in the 23rd minute.

Bordeaux 1 (Toure 21)
PSV Eindhoven 1 (Kieft 40)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Pauly (WG)

Bordeaux: Dropsy — Thouvenel, Roche, Zoran Vujovic, Senac — Rohr (Fargeon 46), Toure, Tigana (Pean 70), Girard — Eerreri, Zlatko Vujovic.

PSV: Van Breukelen — Nielsen, R. Koeman, Gerets, Heintze, Lerby, Van Aerle, Koot, Arnesen (Gillhaus 11), Vanenburg, Kieft.

PSV, carried their runaway domestic form into Europe. Even though they conceded an early goal there was little doubt that their superior pace and stamina would earn a result. Jose Toure put Bordeaux ahead from a free kick after a foul on Jean-Marc Ferreri. But PSV levelled through Wim Kieft five minutes before half-time as he turned a deflected Eric Gerets free kick beyond Dominique Dropsy. Two minutes earlier Berry Van Aerle got the ball in the Bordeaux net but the 'goal' was disallowed for offside. Both teams had to cope with injuries to important midfielders. But the loss of Jean Tigana was perhaps more of a problem for Bordeaux than the loss of injury-prone Frank Arnesen was to the Dutch.

Steaua Bucharest 2 (Piturca 2, Iovan 66)
Rangers 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Agnolin (It).

Steaua: Stingaciu — Iovan, Bumbescu, Belodedici, Ungureanu — Rotariu (Balan 65), Stoica, Hagi, Majaru — Lacatus (Balint 40), Piturca.

Rangers: Woods — Gough, Munro, Roberts, Wilkins, Nisbet (D. Ferguson 79), Nicholl, Souness, McCoist (Francis 86), Durrant, Cooper.

RANGERS went into an awkward match with six players unavailable because of injuries or ineligibility. Player-manager Graeme Souness even gambled on the inclusion of striker Ally McCoist, who had undergone a knee operation the previous week. McCoist was remarkably lively in attack, all things considered. But had it not been for keeper Chris Woods, Rangers would have been dead and buried. He made a string of superb saves, particularly in the first half, to keep Rangers' European dream alive. Woods needed to be at his best, considering the uncertainty evident when Steaua went ahead in only the second minute — Victor Piturca shooting in after Richard Gough failed to clear out of the six-yard box. Rangers were lucky not to concede a penalty when Gough tripped Piturca. But, in the 66th minute, Steaua gained their reward. The brilliant Gheorghe Hagi tapped a free kick for Miodrag Iovan to fire home via a deflection off Ian Durrant.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Quarter-finals, first legs (March 2 unless stated)

Atalanta 2 (Nicolini 44pen, Cantarutti 79)
Sporting Lisbon 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Kirschen (EG)

Atalanta: Piotti — Rossi, Gentile, Fortunato, Progna, Bonacina, Stromberg (Salvadori 85), Nicolini, Cantarutti, Icardi, I. Bonetti (Consonni 73).

Sporting: Rui Correia — Barbose, Lopes, Duilio, Venancio, Oceano, Xavier (M. Fernandes 74), Sealy, Cascavel, Coelho, Marlon (Silvinho 46).

ATALANTA, second in the Italian second division, spent all the first half on the attack. In the 23rd minute Eligio Nicolini saw keeper Rui Correia stop a hard-driven shot from close range. But Nicolini had his revenge in the 44th, shooting home a penalty off the inside of a post after Oceano used his arm to block a Bonacina shot in a goalmouth scramble. In the 55th minute it took a fine save from 21-year-old Rui Correia to defy Nicolini. So it was not until the 79th that Aldo Cantarutti, playing only because of injury to top scorer Oliviero Garlini, scored an opportunist second goal for the Italians. Icardi crossed, Glenn Stromberg pushed the ball through and when Venancio fluffed his backpass, Cantarutti scored. As for Sporting, who recently dismissed coach Keith Burkinshaw, little was seen in attack of Paulinho Cascavel, thanks largely to the excellent 'policing' work of Carmine Gentile.

Mechelen 1 (Dewilde 86)
Minsk Dynamo
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** Germanakos (GR)

Mechelen: Preud'homme — Emmers, Rutjes, Clijsters, Hofkens, Sanders, Benfeld (Demesmaecker 20), E. Koeman, Dewilde, Ohana, Den Boer.

Minsk: Satsunkevich — Rodionok, Gomonov, Yanushevksy, Gotsmanov, Sokol, Zigmantovich, Derkach, Aleinikov, *Shalimo, Kondratiev. *Shalimo sent off, 81.

THE two teams exchanged a flurry of chances in the opening minutes. One of the best fell to Israeli striker Eli Ohana, after Soviet keeper Satsunkevich was stranded out of goal. However Ohana delayed his shot so long under pressure from the Minsk defence that the keeper was able to scramble back to save. Satsukevich then came to the rescue again after a mistake by Victor Yanushevky let in Den Boer. After that the match settled down into a safety-first affair — until Minsk lost their grip on their tempers and the match in the last nine minutes. First Andrei Shalimo was sent off for punching Graeme Rutjes, after referee Germanakos refused to give a penalty against the Belgian for a foul on Shalimo. Then, with four minutes to go, Pascal Dewilde scored for the Belgian league leaders when Yanushevky miskicked an attempted goalmouth clearance.

RoPs 0
Marseille 1 (Papin 26)
HT: 0-1. **Att:**1,631. **Ref:** Zonchev (Bul). *Played in Lecce (Italy), Mar.1*

RoPs: Matinlassi — Tolvanen, Ilola, Pollack, Hannola — Ollila, Vesa Tauriainen, Honkanen, Kallio, Pasi Tauriainen — Dunkley (Willenen 82).

Marseille: Bell — Le Roux, Förster, Domergue, Ayache — Cauet (Fall 62), Genghini, Giresse, Pele — Papin, K. Allofs.

THE Finns, coached by ex-Wales fullback Graham Williams, could not stage this match at home because of snow and ice. Thus Marseille collected what counted as an away win. But they had little of which to be proud after a match of poor quality. Marseille won it with a header from Jean-Pierre Papin to an inch-perfect cross from veteran Alain Giresse. Apart from that Klaus Allofs saw a free kick punched away by Martinlassi and the Ghanaian, Abedi Pele, produced a spectacular bicycle-kick shot which sailed over the bar early in the second half. RoPs threatened only twice. In the 32nd minute Pollack headed just over the bar and in the last minute Kallio fired a Vesa Tauriainen through pass into the side netting.

Young Boys Bern 0
Ajax Amsterdam 1 (Bosman 44)
HT: 0-1. **ATT:** 7,686. **Ref:** Soriano Aladren (Sp). *Played March 9.*

Young Boys: Zurbuchen — Conz — Wittwer, Weber, Hänzi (Frederiksen 73) — Jeitziner (Rene Sutter 53), Holmquist, Baumann, Maissen — Zuffi, A. Sutter.

Ajax: Menzo — Spelbos, Larsson, Blind, Hesp — Wouters, Winter (Scholten 70), Muhren — Van't Schip (Bergkamp 84), Bosman, Rob Witschge.

AN icy pitch meant this game being postponed a week. When it was played Ajax were in control most of the time and won with a John Bosman goal created just before the interval by Van't Schip and Larsson. Maissen had what appeared a perfectly good equaliser disallowed late in the second half.

UEFA CUP

Quarter-finals, first legs (March 2)

Bayer Leverkusen 0
Barcelona 0
Att: 40,000. **Ref:** Vautrot (Fr). *Played in Cologne.*

Leverkusen: Vollborn — Hörster, Seckler, A. Reinhardt, Götz (Falkenmayer 67) — Haas, Rolff, Tita (Buncol 68), K. Reinhardt — Waas, Schreier.

Barcelona: Zubizarreta — Gerardo, Alesanco, Moratalla, Julio Alberto — Victor, Schuster, Urbano, Roberto — Lineker, Carrasco.

LEVERKUSEN'S problems in redeveloping their own stadium meant taking this match to Cologne — an ironic choice since this was where Barcelona's controversial midfielder Bernd Schuster played his football before moving to Spain. Schuster was given a number of ovations during the match by West German fans who clearly felt no resentment about his decision to stay out of the national team. Barcelona, inspired by Schuster in midfield, were suprisingly quicker into gear. But though they dominated play in the first half-hour, both the best early chances fell to Leverkusen. In the sixth minute Wolfgang Rolff shot wide then, in the 24th, Andoni Zubizarreta saved well from the South Korean World Cup star, Bum-kun Cha.

Español 2 (Lauridsen 31, Piñeda 69)
TJ Vitkovice 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 17,500. **Ref:** Quiniou (Fr).

Español: Nkono — Urquiaga, Soler, Miguel Angel, Orejuela, Golobart (Francis 60), Valverde, Zubillaga, Losada, Lauridsen, Piñeda (Zuniga 69).

Vitkovice: Zapalka — Karas, Grussmann, Kadlec, Skarecky, Dostal, Kovacik, Bartl, Jarabek (Houska 65), Scaricny, Chmela.

ESPAÑOL, Barcelona's poor relations, forced three corners in the first five minutes. But the first opening was carved out (and missed) by Jiri

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Bartl for the Czechs on the counterattack in the eighth minute. Vitkovice left only Bartl and Stanislav Dostal up front as Español continued to surge forward. And Spanish pressure was rewarded in the 31st minute when Denmark's John Lauridsen shot home past Jaroslav Zapalka. The Czechs pressed hard in the first 15 minutes of the second half. But once Español had weathered the storm they hit back in decisive fashion and Sebastian Losada laid on a second goal for Piñeda.

Panathinaikos 2 (Saravakos 54, Antoniou 65)
Club Brugge 2 (Ceulemans 57, Degryse 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 75,000. **Ref:** Schmidhuber (WG)

Panathinaikos: Minou — Vassiliou, Vamvakulas, Rocha, Zajec, Georgamlis, Mavrides, Batsinilas, Antoniou, Saravakos, Dimopulos (Kalatsis 87).

Brugge: Vande Walle — Tew Mamadou, Franky Van der Elst, Kimoni, Van Wijk, Ceulemans, Leo Van der Elst, Beyens, Creve, Degryse, Brylle (Rosenthal 79).

BRUGGE twice hit back to equalise to disappoint a capacity crowd in the Athens Olympic stadium. Panathinaikos pressed forward throughout the first half. Dimitris Saravakos was just too late to connect with a dangerous cross in the second minute, Vande Walle saved well from Christos Dimopulos in the 14th but was lucky later to recover after a 42nd-minute cross slipped through his hands. In the 54th minute Saravakos at last put Panathinaikos ahead on a pass by the Argentine, Juan Ramon Rocha. But within three minutes Brugge were level. Veteran skipper Jan Ceulemans headed home a cross from Kenneth Brylle. Panathinaikos went back in front when Costas Antoniou headed home a Dimopulos pass. But once again Brugge were equal to the challenge, pulling level with seven minutes to go through Marc Degryse.

Verona 0
Werder Bremen 1 (Neubarth 49)
HT: 0-1.**Att:** 33,435, **Ref:** Valentine (Scot)

Verona: Giuliani — Bonetti, Volpecpina (Iachini 77), Berthold, Fontolan, Solda, Volpati, Galia, Pacione, Di Gennaro, Elkjaer.

Bremen: Reck — Schaaf, Otten, Bratseth, Sauer, Borowka, Wolter, Votava, Riedle, Neubarth (Kutzop 87), Ordenewitz (Burgsmüller 82).

VERONA tried their best to adjust to the unusual demands of attacking tactics. But the nearest they came in the first half was just before the interval when a Preben Elkjaer shot was blocked by keeper Reck and Pacione executed a bicycle-kick trying to score off the rebound. Four minutes after half-time Werder scored the winner. Sauer found Wolter and his cross exposed the Italian defence. Frank Neubarth was unmarked to head past Giuliani. In the 80th minute Elkjaer wasted the chance to equalise when he fired over the bar from 12 yards.

CHAMPIONS' CUP

Quarter-finals, 2nd legs (March 16)

Anderlecht 1 (Gudjohnsen 64)
Benfica 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 44,000. **Ref:** Hackett (Eng)
Benfica 2-1 on agg

Anderlecht: Munaron — Grun, Demol (Swinnen 72), Keshi, Van Tiggelen, Andersen, Janssen, Vervoort (Lindmann 83), Gudjohnsen, Krncevic, Nilis.

Benfica: Silvino — Veloso, Dito Mendes, Alvaro, Mozer, Edmundo, Tueba, Pacheco (Sobrinho 65), Rui Aguas, Magnusson, Diamantino.

BENFICA were almost swamped when Anderlecht threw everyone forward in the second half. But the only success for the Belgians came from a free kick by Iceland's Arnor Gudjohnsen. Benfica might have sneaked goals in the breakaway by Magnusson and Swinnen but otherwise the Anderlecht defence was well-organised by Stephane Demol, back in action after almost a year injured. Gudjohnsen came close to a goal after only eight minutes and Vervoort shot much too high in the 21st. Gudjohnsen was just wide with a header to a Nilis pass in the 37th minute and then Australian international Eddie Krncevic headed into Silvino's arms. Benfica coach Toni said: "My players were fantastic. They showed just what team spirit is all about."

PSV Eindhoven 0
Bordeaux 0
ATT: 27,000. **Ref:** Fredriksson (Swe).
PSV on away goals: agg 1-1

PSV: Van Breukelen — Gerets, Nielsen, Koeman, Heintze — Lerby, Van Aerle, Vanenbury — Koot, Kieft, Gillhaus (Arnesen 60).

Bordeaux: Dropsy — Thouvenel, Zoran Vujovic, Senac, Girard — Pean (Tigana 74), Zlatko Vujovic, Bijotat, Fargeon — Ferreri, Roache.

PSV'S away goal in the first leg proved just enough although they had more of the attacking effort in the first half at least. Even then French keeper Dominique Dropsy was worried only twice — once when Eric Gerets took a headed pass from Berrie Van Aerle and fired against the bar then when Soren Lerby shot the rebound hard but wide. PSV were clearly weakened because Hans Gillhaus had been struggling with a knee injury.

On the other hand, Bordeaux left Jean Tigana on the bench for most of the match because of ankle trouble — only gambling in vain on his introduction when there were 16 minutes remaining. Bordeaux coach Aime Jaequet said that Bordeaux had not played up to the form of their recent league games but that "PSV were better, tactically and technically, and deserved to go through."

Rangers 2 (Gough 16, McCoist 30 pen)
Steaua Bucharest 1 (Lacatus 3)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 44,000. **Ref:** Galler Swz)
Steaua 3-2 on agg

Rangers: Woods — Nisbet (Francis 71), Munro, Roberts, Wilkins, Gough, D. Ferguson, Souness, McCoist, Durrant, Cooper.

Steaua: Stingaciu (Lilac 58) — Iovan, Ungureanu (Balan 85), Cireasa, Stoica, Belodedici, Lacatus, G. Popescu, Piturca, Hagi, Rotariu.

RANGERS huffed and puffed (and kicked) but could not blow the Rumanian house over. But they added to the enormity of their task by allowing Steaua the courtesy of a third-minute goal — beautifully converted by Lacatus on a through pass from Stoica. Well taken though it was, Rangers were not concentrating and they paid the ultimate penalty with elimination. Rangers levelled after 16 minutes when a Cooper corner was headed on by Roberts for the unmarked Gough to head home. On the half hour they went ahead. Durrant was pulled down by Belodedici and McCoist shot the penalty home. Steaua later had to replace keeper Stingaciu because of injury (Just as Kiev had to replace Chanov in a previous round) but, for all their effort, Rangers could not break through again. Perhaps they should have been grateful to finish with all 11 players on the pitch considering the nature of an early foul by player-manager Graeme Souness on Rotariu.

Real Madrid 2 (Jankovic 27, Michel 41)
Bayern Munich 0
HT: 2-0 Att: 95,000. **Ref:** Ponnet (Bel)
Real Madrid 4-3 on agg

Madrid: Buyo — Chendo, Camacho, Tendillo, Sanchis, Gordillo, Butragueño (Solana 90), Michel, Hugo Sanchez, Gallego, Jankovic.

Bayern: Pfaff — Winklhöfer (M. Rummenigge 55), Pflügler, Eder, Augenthaler, Flick, Wohlfarth, Matthäus, Hughes, Kögl (Eck 69), Brehme.

MADRID beat Bayern at the third attempt in the Champions' Cup, despite not playing anything near their best, despite a foul-strewn match — and despite being evacuated from their hotel in the middle of the night before the game because of a bomb hoax. Madrid took no chances with security: several hundred riot police were both inside and outside the stadium and eight-metre fences were strung up behind both goals. Nor did Madrid take any chances on the pitch. They never threw the full weight of their team into attack — preferring to use the pace of Gordillo down the left as their most effective weapon. It was after Butragueño was baulked chasing a Gordillo pass, that Madrid were awarded the free kick which Gallego pushed right for Milan Jankovic to shoot home via a defender's boot. Fourteen minutes later it was all over: again Gordillo breaking down the left and Michel volleying home his far-post cross. In the second half Bayern had two clear chances. First Hughes missed appallingly after a Pfaff clearance surprised the Madrid defence, then another Hughes' effort was headed off the line by Chendo. There were seven bookings and the fouls, injuries, time-wasting and ham acting led to referee Ponnet adding six minutes of overtime.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Quarter-finals, 2nd legs (March 16 unless stated)

Marseille 3 (Genghini 18, Allofs 22, Papin 77pen)
RoPs 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 16,016. **Ref:** Correia (Port). *Played March 15.*
Marseille 4-0 on agg

Marseille: Bell — Ayache, Le Roux, Lowitz, Domergue — Pele, Förster, Giresse (Diallo 84), Genghini (Cauet 80) — Papin, Allofs.

RoPs: Martinlassi — Tolvanen, Hannola, Pollack, Ollila — Nieminen, Kallio, Honkanen, P. Tauriainen — Dunkley (Tegelbert 35), T. Tauriainen.

MARSEILLE easily completed the formalities of securing a place in the semi-finals. Pele made the first goal for World Cup veteran Genghini, who in turn helped lay on No 2 for West Germany's European championship captain, Klaus Allofs. Papin completed the scoring late in the second half after he had been fouled by keeper Matinlassi, after being sent clear by Giresse.

Ajax Amsterdam 1 (Larsson 39)
Young Boys Bern 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Butenko (SU)
Ajax 2-0 on agg

Ajax: Menzo — Scholten, Spelbos, Larsson, Verlaat, Winter (Bergkamp 84), Van't Schip, Wouters, Bosman (Meijer 86), Muhren, Rob Witschge.

Young Boys: Zurbuchen — Wittwer, Baumann, Webver, Conz, Rene Sutter (Frederiksen 76), Zuffi, Jeitziner (Haenzi 76), Maissen, Holmqvist, A. Sutter.

SWEDISH defender Peter Larsson scored the only goal to ease holders Ajax into the semi-finals. They could easily become the first team ever to win the Cup-winners' Cup two years in a row. Striker John Bosman was unlucky early on. A 24th-minute shot flew wide and two minutes later he hit a post. Larsson then scored his second goal for Ajax since moving from IFK Gothenburg at the end of last year. In the second half the best Ajax opening saw keeper Urs Zurbuchen save well from veteran Arnold Muhren. Young Boys managed a handful of opportunities. In the first half Zuffi fell over his own feet when well placed and in the second half Erni Maissen forced a sharp 65th-minute save drom Stanley Menzo.

Minsk Dynamo 1 (Kistev 59)
Mechelen 0 (Ohana 29)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Lund-Sorensen (Den)
Mechelen 2-1 on agg

Minsk: Satsunkevich — Rodeniok, Gomonov, Yanushevki, Cheroki, (Sohol 26), Zigmantovich, Gotsmanov, Kistev, Aleinikov, Derkach, Kondratiev.

Mechelen: Preud'homme — Emmers, Clijsters, Rutjes, De Greece, Jaspers, Sanders, Benfeld, De Wilde (De Mesmagker 55), Den Boer, Ohana (Theunis 88).

MECHELEN, the surprise team this season in Belgium where they lead the league, refused to be upset by the cold or the icy pitch. It was Israeli forward Eli Ohana who put the ahead in the 29th minute and, despite all the Soviet pressure, they conceded only the one goal to Kistev . . . thus reaching European semi-finals for the first time in their history.

Sporting Lisbon 1 (Houtman 66)
Atalanta 1 (Cantarutti 82)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 55,000. **Ref:** Brummeier (Aus)
Atalanta 3-1 on agg

Sporting: Damas — Toad Luis (Mario 46), Morato, Venancio, Duilio — Oceano, Jorge, Marlon, Silvinho — Houtman, Cascavel.

Atalanta: Piotti — Progna, Barcella, Fortunato, Salvatori — Bonacina, Icardi, Nicolini, Cantarutti — Consonni (Osti 89), Bonetti.

ATALANTA could become the first second division team ever to win a European competition, given their own confidence both in Europe and at home (where they are challenging for promotion) — plus the poor nature of the Cup-winners' Cup this season. Sporting, now under Antonio Morais since the dismissal of Keith Burkinshaw, forced a string of

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dangerous free kicks in the first half but could not take advantage of them. Brazilian striker Paulinho Cascavel smashed one free kick into the wall of defenders then saw Piotti make a fine save from another effort. Dutch forward Peter Houtman eventually headed Sporting in front from a cross by substitute Mario Marques Coelho. But six minutes from time Atalanta secured their passage with a goal on the break by Cantarutti.

UEFA CUP

Quarter-finals, 2nd legs (March 16)

Barcelona 0
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Tita 59)
HT: 0-0. **ATT:** 32,500. **Ref:** Courtney (Eng.)
Leverkusen 1-0 on agg

Barcelona: Zubizarreta — Gerardo, Migueli, Roberto, Manolo — Victor, Schuster, Caldere (Nayim 46), Urbano — Lineker, Carrasco.

Leverkusen: Vollborn — A. Reinhardt, Hörster, Falkenmayer, Hinterberger, Tauber, Rolff, Schreier, Tita (Buncol 77), Cha, Wass (Götz 71).

BAYER'S Brazilian import Tita provided a shock for Barcelona fans with his winning goal after a breakaway engineered by Wolfgang Rolff. Bayer deserved their victory and Tita might even have put them ahead in the 15th minute of the first half only to see Andoni Zubizarreta make one of several fine saves. Barcelona took half an hour to make any impression on the match. Just after half-time Bernd Schuster had a shot well saved by Vollborn — who then punched away a Carrasco header immediately before Bayer broke for their winning goal at the other end. In the 80th minute Schuster, hardly the most popular figure anyway at Nou Camp, missed a penalty. Barcelona are struggling in mid-table in the Spanish league. If they do not beat Real Sociedad in the cup final on March 30 it could mean the end of their unique record of having competed in Europe every year since 1955.

Club Brugge 1 (Brylle 43)
Panathinaikos 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Prokop (EG)
Brugge 3-2 on agg

Brugge: Vande Welle — Tew, Franky Van der Elst, Bross, Van Wijk — Ceulemans, Leo Van der Elst, Kimoni, Creve (Beyens 64) — Degryse (Rosenthal 85), Brylle.

Panathinaikos: Sarganis — Vamvakulas, Patsiavuras, Batsinilas, Zajec, Mavridis, Saravakos, Antoniou, Dimopulos, Rocha, Georgamlis.

NONE of the customary second-leg fireworks this time from Club Brugge, but they were lucky. The hosts secured a semi-final place thanks to a 43rd-minute goal from Danish striker Kenneth Brylle after skipper Jan Ceulemans served up a cross from Serge Kimoni. It was Brylle's sixth goal in Europe this season. But Panathinaikos went home furious both with their bad luck and with referee Adolf Prokop. In the eighth minute Batsinilas volleyed against a post; in the 40th minute Dimitris Saravakos forced a superb save from Vande Welle; then, two minutes later, Saravakos appeared to be tripped by Tew when about to shoot — but Prokop rejected Greek appeals for a penalty. In the 75th minute Prokop refused a 'goal' by Argentine Juan Ramon Rocha because of offside but TV replays threw doubt on the decision. Brugge coach Henk Houwart could afford, in victory, to admit that Panathinaikos were unlucky both with the penalty and the 'goal' decisions.

Vitkovice 0
Español 0
ATT: 20,000. **Ref:** Thomas (Hol)
Español 2-0 on agg

Vitkovice: Zapalka — Cara, Kadlec, Skarecky, Staicny, Dostal, Grossmann (Saurek 46), Bartl, Chmela, Kovacik, Houska (Kareskyi 46), Kopecky.

Español: Melendez — Soler, Miguel Angel, Francis (Gallart 70), Job, Orejuela (Golobart 67), Inaki, Zubillaga, Urquiaga, Pichi Alonso,. Valverde.

VITKOVICE spent most of the game on the attack but the Spaniards defended stubbornly, doing their level best to protect inexperienced reserve keeper Carlos Melendez, standing in for the injured Thomas Nkono. Thus unfashionable Español are through to the semi-finals while neighbouring Catalan giants Barcelona are out.

Werder Bremen 1 (Sauer 32)
Verona 1 (Volpecina 53)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 39,000. **Ref:** Keizer (Hol)
Bremen 2-1 on agg

Bremen: Reck — Schaaf, Otten, Bratseth, Sauer, Kutxop, Ordenewitz, Votava, Riedle, Neubarth, Meier (Hermann 89).

Verona: Giuliani — Pioli (Volpecina, Volpato, Bonetti, Solda, Iachini (Sacchetti 65), Galia, Pacione, *Di Gennaro, Verza. *Di Gennaro sent off, 75.

WEST German league leaders Werder Bremen reached the last four after a bruising encounter which saw Italian international midfielder, Antonio Di Gennaro, sent off for a foul on Werder's Norwegian star defender, Rune Bratseth. Bremen took the lead with a fine shot in the 32nd minute by sweeper Sauer and Verona equalised in the 54th minute with a header from Giuseppe Volpecina. Verona clearly missed the attacking power of suspended Preben Elkjaer and the defensive steel of Silvano Fontalan, suspended after failing a first-leg dope test.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Ta'qali — Rothmans Intl tmt
Malta 2 (Busuttil 35, 37)
Finland 0
HT: 2–0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Edgar Azzopardi (Mal).
MALTA began the third edition of 'their' Rothmans-sponsored tournament with a victory. Carmel Busuttil struck twice in two minutes towards the end of the first half. This match was the second of a double-header — in the other game the East German Olympic side opened the competition with a 5-0 thrashing of Tunisia.

Haifa — friendly
Poland 2 (Cisek 42, 85)
Rumania 2 (Mateut 38, Sabau 46)
HT: 1–1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Zvi (Isl).

Poland: Jankowski — Kubicki, Krol (Cisek 31), Wenclewski, Wdowczyk — Tarasiewicz, Kaczmarek, Prusik, Urban — Cyron (Marciniak 46), Kosecki (Lukasik 65).

Rumania: Lung — Rednic (M. Popa 46), Ciucia, Andone, Sandoi — Sabau (Goanta 72), Bölöni, Mateut — Klein, Coras, Lasconi.
AN unusual venue for a friendly between these teams but both were in Israel to play the local national team as part of the Israeli Olympic qualifying preparations. Rumania were without the Steaua Bucharest players while Poland used the match as a run-out for a number of their Olympic team members.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Ta'qali — Rothmans Intl tmt
Malta 2 (Vella pen, Busuttil)
Tunisia 1 (Maloul pen)
HT: 0–1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** V. Mintoff (Mal).
THIS victory kept alive Malta's title chances but they would ultimately have to be satisfied with second place after losing their last match to the East Germany Olympic side by 1-0.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Ta'gali — Rothmans Intl tmt
Tunisia 0
Finland 3 (Lipponen 3)
HT: 0–2. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** Fenech (Mal)
THIS was the effective wooden spoon play-off with the Finns winning — and Tunisia thus finishing bottom in their four-term event — thanks to a hat-trick from Mika Lipponen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Malaga — intl friendly
Spain 1 (Julio Salinas 30)
Czechoslovakia 2 (Knoflicek 44, Kubic 73)
HT: 1–1. **Att:** 37,000. **Ref:** D'Elia (It).

Spain: Zubizarreta — Lopez Rekarte, Julio Alberto (Andrinua), Larranaga, Sanchis (Diego Rodriguez), Victor, Eusebio, Jaquin, Butragueno, Beguiristain, Julio Salinas.

Czechoslovakia: Miklosko — Levy, Staraka, Hasek, Vik, Bilek, Skuhravy, Chovanec, Luhovy, Kubic, Knoflicek.
SPAIN put out a weakened, experimental side but defeat was still an unpleasant surprise in this warm-up match for the European championship — particularly after the way group one rivals Italy had disposed of the Soviet Union at the weekend. Yet Spain went ahead, on the halfhour, when Atletico Madrid's Julio Salinas scored after Ludek Miklosko stopped, but could not hold, a Julio Alberto free kick. One minute earlier the Czechoslovaks had wasted a good chance when Lubos Kubik, with only the goalkeeper to beat, had been foiled by Zubizarreta. They did score, however, just before half-time — Ivo Knoflicek heading the equaliser after a Jozef Chovanec corner. The visitors then dominated the second half with their better technique and teamwork and were rewarded with a long-range winner in the 73rd minute from Kubik, after he had exchanged passes with Luhovy.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Budapest — intl friendly
Hungary 1 (Kiprich 89)
Turkey 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,000.
A late, late goal from Jozsef Kiprich brought Hungary an uninspired victory over the Turks.

OTHER MATCHES

Jan 26: Albania Olympic XI 1, Rumania Oly. O.
Feb 3: Albania Oly. 0, Rumania Oly. 0.
Feb 7: E. German Oly. 5, Tunisia 0 (Rothmans tmt in Malta).
Feb 10: Israel B 2, Poland X1 1. — E. Germany Oly. 2, Finland 0 (Rothmans tmt in Malta).
Feb 13: Malta 0, E. Germany Oly. 1 (E. Germans win Rothmans tms in Malta).
Feb 20: Egypt 1, Soviet Union Oly. 2.
Feb 25: Kuwait 3, Czechoslovakia Oly. 0

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP
FEBRUARY 24

Murcia — qtr fnl, 1st leg
Spain 0
Holland 1 (Plomp 89 pen)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,000.

MARCH 16

Nancy — qtr fnl, 1st leg
France 2 (Paille 81, Sauzee 89)
Italy 1 (Maldini 51)
HT:0-0. **Att:** 13,462.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA OLYMPIC QUAL TOURNAMENT — CONCACAF zone group B
February 4
In Mexico

Mexico 2 (De la Torre, Flores)
Guatemala 1 (Perez)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 25,000.
MEXICO lacked punch in attack against an enthusiastic Guatemala side in which Funes, Byon Perez and Raul Chacon stood out. Mexico played much below form except for World Cup men Negrete, Luis Flores and Fernando Quirarte and although they were on top their goals did not come until close on half-time through De la Torre and Flores. A goal rush looked imminent in the second half, but Guatemala effectively stopped Mexico from building up attacks and reduced the deficit through Perez seconds before the final whistle.

February 14

Guatemala 0
Mexico 3 (Galindo, Flores, Aguirre)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Oswaldo Brea (Cuba).
GUATEMALA, needing victory by at least two goals, played attacking soccer at which they are not very good and missed their chances while Mexico, defending more but controlling the game, found the open space and got more and more on top scoring through Galindo after eight minutes and Flores and Aguirre three and 11 minutes after half-time.

Final group B table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	4	4	0	0	14	1	8
Guatemala	4	2	0	2	10	5	4
Guyana	4	0	0	4	0	18	0

(*Mexico qualifies for Seoul Olympic Games.)

FULL INTERNATIONALS
January 6

Guatemala 1 (Whespal)
Costa Rica 2 (Coronado, Badilla)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000.
GUATEMALA, using the match as a warm-up for Olympic qualifying games, played poorly in the first half, especially in midfield, but improved somewhat with several changes made by coach Julio Cesar Cortez in the second half which gave them more punch in attack. Costa Rica, preparing for World Cup qualifying games, showed more experience and better team work.

January 13

Honduras 0
Mexico 1 (Flores)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000.
HONDURAS, playing their first practice match only a week after starting preparations for World Cup qualifying matches, lacked organisation against the better co-ordinated visitors who however only gained the winner five minutes from the end.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS. . . INTERNATIONAL RESULTS. . .

In Guatemala
Guatemala 0
United States 1 (August)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,000.
GUATEMALA once again showed their failure in attack against a US team which surprised with its speed and scored the only goal after 15 minutes.

HAVELANGE SUPER CUP
(for Libertadores Cup winners)
First round — first leg
February 10
In Avellaneda (Arg.)

Independiente (Argentina) 1 (Merlini)
Cruzeiro (Brazil) 2 (Vilmar, Hamilton)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Carlos Maciel (Paraguay).

Independiente: Islas, Alastuey, Monzon, Delgado, Enrique, Giusti, Rios, Merlini, Bochini, Navarro (Reinoso), Barberon.

Cruzeiro: Gomes, Balu, Vilmar, Heraldo, Wladimir, Ademir, Heriberto, Careca, Robson, Hamilton, Edson.
CRUZEIRO, playing typically attractive touch soccer with little punch in front of goal, deservedly won against a below form Independiente of whose evergreen playmaker Bochini little was seen. The knock-out punches came after 14 and 16 minutes of the second half when Cruzeiro went 2-0 ahead. Independiente, fighting back too late, might have had a couple of penalties and when they were finally awarded on 17 minutes from the end, Merlini hit it against the cross-bar, but he made up for it when he scored Independiente's only goal nine minutes from the end.

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS
January 13 — Universidad Catolica (Chile) 4 Estudiantes de La Plata (Argentina) 1; **February 2** — Boca Juniors (Argentina) 2 Peñarol (Uruguay) 1 (in "Ciudad de Mar del Plata" Tournament); **February 9** — River Plate (Argentina) 0 Peñarol (Uruguay) 2 (in "Ciudad de Mar del Plata" Tournament); **February 11** — Boca Juniors (Argentina) 1 America (Colombia) 0 (in "Ciudad de Mar del Plata" Tournament); **February 16** — River Plate (Argentina) 1 America (Colombia) 1 (in "Ciudad de Mar del Plata" Tournament); **February 18** — Temperley (Argentina) 1 Filanbanco (Ecuador) 0.

OCEANIA
JANUARY 2

Tauranga
New Zealand 0
IFK Gothenburg 2 (Andersson 27, Forsberg 31)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 3,103. **Ref:** Cameron (NZ)

New Zealand: Schofield (Gosling 46) — Brydon (Zoricich 66), Ironside, Herbert, Boath, Tuaa (Barkley 60), Cole, De Jong, Edge (Wright 75), Riley, Hagan.

IFK Gothenburg: Thorstvedt — Fredriksson, Mordt, Zetterlund, Forsberg (Frosberg 75), Andersson, Pettersson, Carlsson (Holmgren 49), L. Nilsson (M. Nilsson), Johansson, R. Nilsson.

JANUARY 5

Hastings
New Zealand 0
IFK Gothenburg 0
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 3,310. **Ref:** Fleet (NZ)

New Zealand: Gosling — Mulligan, Cresswell, Herbert, Evans, Halligan, Halford, Edge, McGarry (Cole 84), Hagan (Walker 67), De Jong.

IFK Gothenburg: Thorstvedt — Fredriksson, Mordt (M. Nilsson 56), Zetterlund, Andersson, Pettersson (Forsberg 67), Carlsson, L. Nilsson (Froberg 82), Johansson, R. Nilsson.

JANUARY 7

Wellington
New Zealand 2 (Halford 51, Halligan 79)
IFK Gothenburg 1 (Carlsson 6)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,190. **Ref:** Tasker (NZ)

New Zealand: Gosling — Mulligan, Evans, Herbert, Cole — Edge, Halford (Brydon 80), McGarry (Cresswell 70), Halligan — De Jong, Hagan (Walker 57)

IFK Gothenburg: Thorstvedt — Mordt (M. Nilsson), Zetterlund, Forsberg, Andersson, Carlsson, L. Nilsson, R. Nilsson, Ingesson (Johansson 80), Persson, Millquist (Holmgren 75).

JANUARY 10

Sydney
Australia 0
IFK Gothenburg 1 (Andersson 18)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,240. **Ref:** Power (Australia)

Australia: Olver (Gibson 74) — Yankos, Dunn, Savor (Tobin 54, Davidson (Petersen 54), Jennings — Wade (Taipai 73) Crino, Farina — Ollerenshaw (Mullen 54), Arnold.

IFK Gothenburg: Thorstvedt — Svensson, Mordt, Zetterlund (Johansson 85), Foreberg L. (Holmgren 71) — Andersson, Petersson, Carlsson, Nilsson L. (Foregerg D 89) — Nillsson R., Inglesson.

AFRICA
OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFIERS — AFRICAN ZONE
JANUARY 15

Annaba
Algeria 1 (Oudjani 47)
Nigeria 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 90,000. **Ref:** M. Diramba (Gabon)

Algeria: Drid — Chaid, Benhalima, Mugharia, Belshardi — Cherif-el-Ouzani (Mansouri 46), Ferhaoui, Yahi, Menas (Djahmoune 46) — Belloumi, Oudjani.

Nigeria: Rufai — Visa, Ndibuisu, Adeshina, Keshi — Sunny, Odu, Augustine, Samson — Afard, Hamphry.

JANUARY 17

Lusaka
Zambia 2 (Chansa, Bwalya 73)
Ghana 0
HT: 0-0.

Zambia: Efford Chabala — Peter Mwanza, Manfred Chabinas, Ashios Melu, Fishton Simukonda — Derby Makinka, Lucky Msisks, Charles Musonda, Wisdom Chansa — Kalusha Bwalya, Johnstone Bwalya.

Ghana: Mohamed Odoum — Philip Tegoe, Kwasi Appiah, Edward Abuaye, Asiedon Kwabena — Isaac Acquaye, Ebo Smith, Sarvfo Gyamfi, Anthony Yeboah — Opopku Nti, Sumaila Kojo.

Tunia
Tunisia 1 (Dhiab 15)
Morocco 0
HT: 0-0.

Tunisia: Mohammed Nassar Chouchane — Ouahchy, Mahjoubi, Okbi, Chehat — Baouab, Maaloui, Dhiab, Hergal (Al-Rouissi) — Rakbaoui, Yahmadi.

Morocco: Zaki — Khalifa, Hcina, Jilal Fadhel, Mourad — Dolmy, Ben Abicha, Timoumi, Khairi — Mustapha Merry (El Ghors), Souady (Kiddi).

JANUARY 30

Rabat
Morocco 2 (Khairi 24, Krimau 30)
Tunisia 2 (Al-Rouissi 14, Dhiab 89)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** M. Badra Siney (Senegal)

Morocco: Zaki — Labd Khalifa, Jilal Fadhel, Mourad, Lamriss — Dolmy, Amenallah (Mustapha Merry 88), Mohamed Timoumi — Hassan Fadel (El Ghors 25), Merry Krimau, Abderrazek Khairi.

Tunisia: Mohammed Nassar Chouchane — Mizouri, Okbi, Mahjoubi, Chehat — Gharbi, Ma aloul, Dhiab, Mehdhebi — Rakbaoui (Limame 80), Al-Rouissi (Bousnina 80).

Enugu
Nigeria 2 (Adeshina 30, Nwosu 117)
Algeria 0
HT: 1-0. 90 minutes: 1-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** M. Habib (Egypt).

Nigeria: Yiffa, Brucht, Eboledge, Keshi — Adeshina, Okwarti, Augustine, Ndubussi (Samson) — Foloremfo (Hamphry), Nwosu.

Algeria: Drid — Chaid, Benhalima, Belghardi, Megharia — Kachamli, Boukar, Yahi, Oudjani (Ben Tayeb) — Belloumi (Meddane), Djahmoune.

JANUARY 31

Ghana 1 (Yeboah 17)
Zambia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 60,000.

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS CUP
PRELIMINARY ROUND FIRST LEG
FEBRUARY 14

Pantheres Noires (Rwanda) 2 (Djamel Nsadimana 68, Ndanda Nkunzurwanda 85)
Wagad (Somalia) 2 (Michel Habyarimana 1 og, Mohamed Mohamoud Ali 22)
Royal Lesotho Defence Force 2 (Sebata Sebata 73 penalty, Tsiu Khatibe 80)
Sunrise SC (Mauritius) 0

Manzinin Wanderers (Swaziland) 2 (Clement Mdluli, 1, 40)
Township Rollers (Botswana) 0

AFRICAN CUP WINNERS' CUP
PRELIMINARY ROUND FIRST LEG
FEBRUARY 7

Sigui de Kayes (Mali) 0
Real Republicans (Sierre Leone) 0

Wallidan (Gambia) 3 (Malled Wadda 6, Moses Sarr 51, Joe Gomez 56)
AS Douanes (Mauritania) 0
Match abandoned after 64 minutes

Mukura Victory (Rwanda) 5 (Gustave Mudenyi 2, 12, 44, Juiles Ndelema 54, 66)
Mbabane Highlanders (Swaziland) 1 (Nicodemus Mashwama 43)

Matlama (Lesotho) 2 (Matete Matete 48, Lenkoe Mofoehetsi 71)
Maxaquene 1 (Tome Matuce 80)

CHILE

First Division (final standings)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Univ Catolica	30	21	7	2	51	16	49
Colo Colo	30	14	11	5	44	28	39
Cobreloa	30	13	12	5	44	32	38
Cobresal	30	11	12	7	44	38	34
Univ de Chile	30	10	11	9	49	33	31
Naval	30	10	10	10	39	33	30
Everton	30	9	11	10	33	32	29
Fernandez Vial	30	9	11	10	32	32	29
Palestino	30	9	11	10	46	57	29
Huachipato	30	10	8	12	30	37	28
Iquique	30	10	7	13	34	44	27
Union Española	30	8	10	12	29	34	26
Concepción	30	7	12	11	31	40	26
Lota Schwager	30	9	8	13	24	33	26
Rangers (Talca)	30	9	7	14	31	47	25
San Luis	30	3	8	19	19	43	14

*Colo Colo won play-off for vice-championship between 2nd to 5th placed teams — Bottom two (Rangers and San Luis) relegated and Lota Schwager faces runners-up of two second division groups for place in next season's first division.

ARGENTINA

National A Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newell's Old Boys	23	13	6	4	42	17	32
Racing	23	10	11	2	35	19	31
San Lorenzo	23	10	10	3	28	14	30
Deportivo Español	23	9	11	3	35	23	29
Gimn y Esg. La Pl	23	8	12	3	31	22	28
Argentinos Juniors	23	10	7	6	33	25	27
River Plate	23	9	8	6	27	23	26
Velez Sarsfield	23	9	7	7	30	27	25
Ferrocarril Oeste	23	7	11	5	21	19	25
Rosario Central	23	7	10	6	34	26	24
Independiente	23	7	10	6	23	22	24
Deportivo Armenio	23	5	12	6	21	24	22
Estud La Plata	23	4	12	7	19	23	20
Platense	23	5	10	8	28	34	20
Boca Juniors	23	6	6	11	23	38	18
Talleres Córdoba	23	3	11	9	25	38	17
Instituto Córdoba	23	5	7	11	21	39	17
Banfield	23	4	8	11	16	31	16
RC Córdoba	23	5	5	13	16	31	15
Union Santa Fe	23	3	8	12	19	32	14

Relegation table — (points obtained over last three seasons — bottom two go down): Estudiantes La Plata 0.86; Unión 0.78; Platense and Racing Córdoba 0.76; Banfield 0.69.

PERU

First Division: 1 Alianza Lima and Sporting Cristal 40 points; 3 Universitario de Deportes 37; 4 Union Huaral 36; 5 Alfonso Ugarte 30; 6 Municipal 27; 7 Colegio Nacional Iquitos 26; 8 Deportivo Junin 24; 9 San Agustin, Cienciano and Carlos Manucci 21; 12 Deportivo Pucallpa 20; 13 Universidad Tecnica Cajamarca, Hungaritos and Union Minas 17.

VENEZUELA

Professional League

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Maritimo	18	9	7	2	25
Zamora	18	8	6	4	22
Pepeganga	18	8	5	5	21
Portuguesa	18	7	7	4	21
Lara	18	6	8	4	20
Mineros Guyana	18	6	7	5	19
Universidad los Andes	18	7	5	6	19
Caracus FC	18	7	4	7	18
Peninsulares	18	5	8	5	18
Tachira	18	6	5	7	17
Italia	18	5	6	7	16
Anzoategui	18	5	6	7	16
Estudiantes Merida	18	4	6	8	14
Univers. Central Venez	18	1	4	13	6

URUGUAY

"Luigilla" Libertadores Cup qualifying tournament (final standing)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wanderers	5	3	2	0	5	2	8
Nacional	5	2	2	1	7	5	6
Bella Vista	5	2	2	1	7	6	6
River Plate	5	1	3	1	10	7	5
Defensor	5	1	3	1	4	4	5
Progreso	5	0	0	5	4	14	0

*Wanderers qualify for Libertadores Cup — Runners-up Nacional beat first division champions Defensor 2-0 in play-off for second place (apart from Peñarol who enter as cup holders).

BOLIVIA

Professional League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivar	24	16	2	6	54	22	34
Oriente	24	12	8	4	44	29	32
Petrolero	24	11	7	6	35	29	29
The Stongest	25	13	3	9	48	28	29
Destroyers	24	10	6	8	26	25	26
Blooming	24	10	4	10	28	24	24
Litoral	24	9	6	9	37	35	24
Wilsterman	25	8	8	9	27	25	24
Always Ready	23	7	9	7	25	22	23
Real Santa Cruz	24	9	5	10	29	30	23
San Jose	24	9	3	12	25	44	21
Aurora	25	7	4	14	31	46	18
Universitario	24	4	8	12	16	44	16
Ciclon	24	5	5	14	23	45	15

*Top eight qualify for final round.

KUWAIT

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al-Arabi	7	6	1	0	13	3	13
Al-Kuwait	7	5	0	2	11	7	10
Kazma	7	4	1	2	9	5	9
Al-Salmiyya	7	4	0	3	9	8	8
Al-Fahaheel	7	3	1	3	12	9	7
Al-Qadsia	7	3	0	4	11	13	6
Al-Nasr	7	1	1	5	8	17	3
Al-Yarmouk	7	0	0	7	6	17	0

LEAGUE TABLES . . . LEAGUE TABLES . . .

MEXICO

First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Group 1							
Univ Auto Mexico	20	8	10	2	42	22	26
Guadalajara	19	10	4	5	28	16	24
Atlante	20	7	6	7	32	30	20
Angeles	20	5	5	10	28	42	15
Tampico-Madero	20	2	10	8	20	35	14
Group 2							
Univ Guadalajara	20	13	4	3	40	20	30
U Aut Guadalajara	20	9	7	4	30	18	25
Atlas	19	6	6	7	31	37	18
Cruz Azul	20	5	8	7	28	32	18
At. Potisino	20	2	7	11	16	31	11
Group 3							
America	20	10	5	5	33	20	25
Puebla	20	9	5	6	32	26	23
Necaxa	20	8	7	5	24	24	23
Neza	20	5	6	9	23	34	16
Irapuato	20	4	6	10	15	28	14
Group 4							
Morelia	20	8	8	4	35	21	24
Toluca	20	9	3	8	23	23	21
Monterrey	20	5	8	7	35	31	18
Univ. A Tamaulipas	20	6	5	9	23	34	17
Univ Nuevo Leon	20	5	4	11	18	34	14

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	30	22	7	1	67	14	73
Manchester United	32	16	11	5	48	30	59
Everton	31	16	8	7	42	18	56
Nottingham Forest	29	15	8	6	52	26	53
Arsenal	30	15	7	8	46	28	52
QPR	31	15	7	9	38	32	52
Wimbledon	30	13	9	8	45	32	48
Tottenham	34	11	9	14	34	41	42
Sheffield Wed	32	12	4	16	36	53	40
Norwich	32	11	6	15	34	40	39
Coventry	31	10	9	12	37	46	39
Luton	28	11	5	12	40	38	38
Newcastle	30	9	11	10	36	42	38
Southampton	32	9	10	13	38	44	37
West Ham	31	8	12	11	31	40	36
Derby County	31	8	10	13	28	34	34
Chelsea	32	8	10	14	42	57	34
Charlton	32	7	10	15	32	47	31
Portsmouth	30	6	12	12	27	47	30
Oxford	30	6	9	15	39	62	27
Watford	30	5	8	17	18	39	23

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vitosha	19	12	6	1	41	18	30
CSKA Sredets	19	12	3	4	47	25	27
Lok Sofia	19	10	5	4	33	25	25
Trakia	19	8	6	5	33	22	22
Slavia	19	8	5	6	24	17	21
Mineur	19	8	4	7	31	22	20
Loc Plovdiv	19	9	2	8	31	39	20
Vratza	19	7	4	8	26	27	18
Etar	19	7	3	9	32	29	17
Sliven	19	8	1	10	24	29	17
Pirin	19	4	8	7	18	21	16
Locomotiv GO	19	7	2	10	24	33	16
Beroe	19	5	5	9	24	34	15
Spartak Varna	19	5	4	10	20	35	14
Spartak Pleven	19	4	6	9	21	38	14
Tchernomoretz	19	5	2	12	15	30	12

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaco	28	15	9	4	40	19	39
Bordeaux	28	14	8	6	35	22	36
Matra Racing Paris	28	12	11	5	32	27	35
Saint-Etienne	28	14	4	10	39	38	32
Marseille	28	13	5	10	38	31	31
Auxerre	28	9	12	7	23	15	30
Metz	28	13	4	11	32	27	30
Montpellier	28	11	7	10	39	31	29
Cannes	28	10	9	9	33	36	29
Toulon	28	9	10	9	26	19	28
Laval	28	11	6	11	33	27	28
Nantes	28	9	9	10	33	31	27
Lille	28	9	8	11	27	28	26
Toulouse	28	10	6	12	24	33	26
Niort	28	9	7	12	26	29	25
Lens	28	10	5	13	28	43	25
Nice	28	11	2	15	28	36	24
Paris SG	28	8	6	14	24	35	22
Brest	28	7	8	13	27	39	22
Le Havre	28	4	8	16	25	46	16

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Xamax Neuchatel	2	1	1	0	4	2	19
Grasshopper	1	0	1	0	3	3	16
Servette	2	1	1	0	7	4	15
Aarau	1	1	0	0	3	1	15
St Gall	1	1	0	0	2	1	14
Lucerne	1	0	1	0	1	1	13
Young Boys	1	0	0	1	1	2	13
Lausanne	1	0	0	2	2	6	12

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Larissa*	24	15	6	3	44	17	32
OFI Crete	24	15	2	7	42	28	32
AEK	24	12	8	4	39	26	32
PAOK	24	14	3	7	54	22	31
Ethnikos	24	11	8	5	26	13	30
Panathinaikos	24	12	4	8	32	26	30
Iraklis	24	11	6	7	31	25	28
Aris	24	8	5	11	28	30	21
Olympiakos	24	5	11	8	29	36	21
Panionios	24	6	8	10	23	25	20
Diagoras Rhodes	24	7	6	11	31	29	20
Kalamaria	24	5	9	10	17	29	19
Panachaiki	24	7	4	13	24	39	18
Levadiakos	24	5	7	12	27	37	17
Verria	24	6	5	13	20	48	17
Panserraikos	24	5	4	15	18	37	14

*Larissa minus four points after dope test infringement.

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Napoli	23	17	4	2	47	15	38
Milan	23	13	8	2	34	11	34
Roma	23	13	7	3	34	15	33
Sampdoria	23	10	8	5	32	23	28
Inter	23	8	8	7	29	26	24
Torino	23	6	12	5	27	25	24
Juventus	23	9	5	9	26	23	23
Verona	23	7	9	7	22	22	23
Fiorentina	23	6	9	8	22	24	21
Cesena	23	6	8	9	19	26	20
Pescara	23	7	5	11	20	36	19
Ascoli	23	5	7	11	25	33	17
Pisa	23	4	8	11	19	28	16
Como	23	3	9	11	14	33	15
Avellino	23	3	9	11	15	35	15
Empoli*	23	4	10	9	14	24	13

*Empoli minus five points following a match fixing scandal.

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Porto	26	20	6	0	61	12	46
Benfica	26	15	8	3	41	14	38
Belenenses	26	13	7	6	35	29	33
Boavista	26	11	8	6	25	18	31
Chaves	26	10	9	7	44	26	29
Sporting	26	10	9	7	38	32	29
Setubal	26	10	8	8	43	31	28
Penafiel	26	7	13	6	27	26	27
Espinho	26	8	10	8	28	25	26
Guimaraes	26	9	7	10	40	36	25
Maritimo	26	6	12	8	23	29	24
Farense	26	8	8	10	21	32	24
Academica	26	6	11	9	24	31	23
Braga	26	5	12	9	23	32	22
Varzim	26	6	10	10	20	35	22
Portimonense	26	9	4	13	28	38	22
Elvas	24	4	13	9	23	32	21
Rio Ave	26	4	11	11	21	44	18
Salgueiros	26	4	9	13	20	40	17
Covilha	26	4	6	16	22	45	14

ALGERIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
M. d'Oran	21	13	2	6	30	15	28
Tizi Ouzou	23	7	12	4	25	16	26
Bord Menaiel	23	9	8	6	24	19	26
Ain M-Lila	23	9	7	7	16	15	25
Annaba	23	9	7	7	24	20	25
Tiaret	23	11	3	9	26	21	25
Union d'Alger	23	7	10	6	18	15	24
Relizane	23	9	5	9	19	23	23
M. a'Alger	22	7	8	7	18	18	22
Ain Beida	23	8	6	9	20	29	22
Ass. d'Oran	22	6	10	6	12	10	22
Collo	23	9	4	10	17	22	22
El Harrach	22	5	11	6	16	14	21
Belcourt	22	4	13	5	22	21	21
Tiemcen	23	6	8	9	13	22	20
Setif	22	5	9	8	16	17	19
Chlef	22	4	10	8	15	18	18
Skikda	23	4	9	10	14	29	17

ISRAEL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Macaabi Netanya	13	9	2	2	26	15	29
Hapoel Tel-Aviv	13	7	4	2	13	9	25
Hapoel Kfar-Saba	13	6	3	4	16	12	21
Macaabi Tel-Aviv	13	4	8	1	23	16	20
Beitar Tel-Aviv	13	5	4	4	15	12	19
Hapoel Petach-Tikva	13	5	4	4	15	15	19
Beigar Jerusalem	13	5	3	5	21	20	18
Shimshon Tel-Aviv	13	3	8	2	11	9	17
Hapoel Beer Sheva	13	4	5	4	11	10	17
Bnev Yhoda Tel-Aviv	13	3	7	3	11	8	16
Maccabi Haifa	13	2	5	6	13	14	11
Maccabi PT	13	2	5	6	11	20	11
Zafririm Holon	13	1	7	5	6	11	10
Hapoel Lod	13	0	5	8	10	33	5

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Besiktas	28	18	8	2	54	18	62
Galatasaray	28	18	8	2	61	30	62
Malatyaspor	28	13	7	8	47	46	46
Trabzonspor	28	13	6	9	46	35	45
Samsunspor	27	13	5	9	31	27	44
Fenerbahce	28	12	7	9	33	32	43
Sakaryaspor	28	12	7	9	39	41	43
Bursaspor	28	12	5	11	47	43	41
Adana d. Spor	28	12	3	13	40	49	39
Karsiyaka	26	9	10	7	30	26	37
Ankaragucu	28	8	11	9	37	39	35
Eskisehirspor	28	7	13	8	31	31	34
Altay	28	8	9	11	43	41	33
Boluspor	28	9	6	13	33	39	33
Sariyer	28	6	13	9	39	40	31
Denizlispor	28	8	7	13	25	36	31
Rizespor	28	8	5	15	26	48	29
Genclerbirligi	28	7	7	14	29	36	28
Kocaelispor	27	4	11	12	31	43	23
Zonguldakspor	28	4	6	18	25	47	18

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Werder Bremen	24	16	6	2	46	14	38
Bayern Munich	24	17	2	5	57	29	36
Köln	24	12	10	2	39	19	34
Nürnberg	23	12	6	5	35	20	30
VfB Stuttgart	24	12	6	6	49	32	30
Borussia Mg	24	12	2	10	42	36	26
Hamburg	23	8	7	8	40	46	23
Bayer Leverkusen	24	7	9	8	36	37	23
Eintracht Frankfurt	24	9	4	11	38	37	22
Karlsruher	24	8	6	10	28	42	22
Hannover	23	8	4	11	32	37	20
Waldhof Mannheim	23	6	8	9	25	34	20
Borrusia Dortmund	23	7	5	11	33	35	19
Kaiserslautern	24	7	5	12	36	44	19
Schalke	23	7	3	13	35	56	17
Bochum	23	5	6	12	28	39	16
Bayer Uerdingen	23	5	5	13	28	44	15
Homburg	24	3	8	13	27	53	14

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Red Star	20	10	6	4	42	29	26
Velez	20	9	7	4	29	18	25
Vardar	20	11	3	6	24	21	25
Sloboda	20	10	4	6	34	20	24
Partizan	20	8	7	5	28	18	23
Dinamo	20	9	5	6	29	22	23
Vojvodina	20	8	6	6	31	29	22
Rijeka	20	5	11	4	21	18	21
Rad	20	7	6	7	27	24	20
Radnicki	20	9	1	10	31	30	19
Hajduk	20	6	7	7	29	31	19
Zeleznicar	20	5	8	7	20	24	18
Buducnost	20	6	6	8	19	28	18
Sarajevo	20	6	5	9	16	22	17
Osijek	20	5	7	8	23	33	17
Pristina	20	6	3	11	22	34	15
Sutjeska	20	5	4	11	21	32	14
Celik	20	5	4	11	15	28	14

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	26	18	3	5	61	29	39
FC Mechelen	26	18	3	5	41	21	39
FC Antwerp	26	16	7	3	59	27	39
FC Liège	26	10	13	3	40	22	33
Anderlecht	26	12	8	6	46	22	32
Waregem	26	13	4	9	43	38	30
Standard Liege	26	9	7	10	39	37	25
Cercle Bruges	26	9	6	11	38	37	24
Charleroi	26	9	6	11	31	38	24
Sint Truiden	26	8	8	10	21	28	24
Beerschot	26	9	5	12	32	34	23
RWDM	26	6	10	10	26	38	22
Lokeren	26	7	7	12	30	35	21
Beveren	26	6	9	11	28	26	21
AA Ghent	26	8	4	14	27	43	20
FC Kortrijk	26	7	6	13	32	51	20
Racing Jet	26	6	4	16	19	47	16
Winterslag	26	6	4	16	25	65	16

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta Prague	15	11	4	0	36	10	26
DAC Dunajska	15	8	4	3	21	15	20
Banik Ostrava	15	7	5	3	25	18	19
Dukla Prague	15	6	5	4	25	17	17
RH Cheb	15	6	5	4	19	17	17
Sigma Ol	15	5	6	4	25	24	16
Sp Kralove	15	5	6	4	19	26	16
Vitkovice	15	6	3	6	28	24	15
Inter Bratislava	15	6	3	6	27	27	15
Plastica Nitra	15	5	3	7	19	19	13
Dukla Banska	15	6	1	8	21	26	13
Spartak Trnava	15	5	3	7	20	26	13
Bohemians	14	5	2	7	21	24	12
Slavia Prague	15	4	4	7	16	24	12
ZVL Zilina	15	3	3	9	16	25	9
Tatran Presov	14	2	2	11	13	29	5

EAST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dresden	16	8	6	2	34	15	22
Lok. Leipzig	15	9	4	2	25	11	22
Dynamo Berlin	15	8	5	2	37	18	21
Brandeburg	16	8	2	6	25	23	18
Karl-Marx-S	16	5	7	4	26	24	17
Chemie Halle	14	4	8	2	20	14	16
CZ Jena	15	5	6	4	18	18	16
Magdeburg	14	5	5	4	20	16	15
Vorwärts	16	4	5	7	23	28	13
Stahl Riesa	16	3	7	6	15	25	13
Rotweiss Erfurt	15	5	1	9	25	33	11
Wismut Aue	16	3	4	9	13	23	10
Hansa Rostock	15	3	4	8	19	32	10
Union Berlin	15	2	6	7	19	39	10

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV Eindhoven	25	21	3	1	95	22	45
Ajax	26	17	4	5	61	32	38
Feyenoord	25	12	6	7	52	39	30
Willem II	26	12	6	8	46	34	30
Twente	26	11	7	8	46	34	29
Sittard	25	10	9	6	45	34	29
Venio	26	10	9	7	31	26	29
Haarlem	26	12	5	9	33	33	29
Sp Rotterdam	28	8	7	11	31	35	23
Den Bosch	24	9	4	11	34	39	22
Roda	26	8	6	12	24	39	22
Utrecht	24	7	8	9	29	43	22
Groningen	25	8	5	12	38	45	21
Zwolle	25	7	6	12	30	49	20
Volendam	26	7	6	13	29	54	20
Alkmaar	26	4	10	12	30	56	18
Den Haag	22	5	7	10	34	41	17
DS'79	25	2	6	17	31	74	10

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Honved	17	10	4	3	27	15	24
Dozsa Ujpest	17	8	6	3	34	18	22
Raba Eto	17	9	4	4	25	17	22
Tatabanya	17	6	8	3	38	22	20
Haladas	17	6	8	3	23	19	20
Pecs	17	7	5	5	21	17	19
MTK-VM	17	7	3	7	32	34	17
Izzo Vac	17	5	6	6	19	18	16
Ferencvaros	17	4	8	5	23	23	16
Vasas Bud	17	5	6	6	22	24	16
Zalaegerszeg	17	5	6	6	17	21	16
Videoton	17	3	8	6	19	21	14
Siofok	17	5	4	8	22	27	14
Debrecen	17	4	6	7	20	29	14
Bekescsaba	17	4	6	7	14	28	14
Kasposvar	17	2	4	11	14	37	8

LUXEMBOURG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juenesse Esch	18	14	2	2	49	16	30
Spora Luxembourg	18	12	3	3	47	16	27
Avenir Beggen	18	10	4	4	39	18	24
Union Luxembourg	18	10	3	5	43	27	23
Red Boys	18	7	5	6	35	24	19
Ol Eischen	18	7	4	7	19	29	18
Niedercorn	18	6	4	8	26	26	16
Grevenmacher	18	7	2	9	21	32	16
All Dudelange	18	6	2	10	22	34	14
Aris Bonnevoie	18	3	5	10	25	47	11
Hesperange	18	3	3	12	20	42	9
Rumelange	18	2	5	11	18	51	9

NORTHERN IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glentoran	19	14	4	1	37	11	46
Linfield	19	12	3	4	34	12	39
Coleraine	18	11	4	3	37	19	37
Newry	18	9	4	5	23	23	31
Glenavon	19	9	3	7	23	17	30
Larne	19	9	3	7	24	23	30
Ballymena	18	6	7	5	26	25	25
Portadown	18	6	5	7	18	14	23
Ards	19	5	6	8	22	24	21
Crusaders	18	5	5	8	21	24	20
Cliftonville	18	3	8	7	13	24	17
C Rangers	17	4	2	11	16	29	14
Bangor	18	3	4	11	13	35	13
Distillery	19	3	2	14	18	38	11

REPUBLIC IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bohemians	25	14	8	3	47	24	36
Dundalk	25	15	5	5	38	24	35
St Patrick's	25	13	7	5	42	21	33
Shamrock	25	12	8	5	41	23	32
Cork City	25	10	8	7	32	38	28
Waterford United	24	9	9	6	34	22	27
Galway United	25	8	9	8	31	30	25
Derry City	25	10	4	11	46	33	24
Limerick	24	6	6	12	23	41	18
Shelbourne	25	6	5	14	22	32	17
Sligo Rovers	25	4	4	17	24	57	12
Bray Wanderers	25	2	7	16	17	52	11

REAL MADRID CONTINUED

● *Continued from page 25*

perhaps the most controversial player in Spanish football. Llorente began in Madrid's youth teams, was thought unlikely to make the grade and released. Signed for Atletico Madrid's nursery team Atletico Madrileño and quickly made such a name for himself that Atletico brought him into their senior squad last season. He immediately established himself as one of the finest young players in the league before, last spring, deciding to break his contract. Spanish footballers are able to do this under a controversial employment law, as long as they guarantee to pay the club the value of the outstanding contract. Llorente, however, had had the forethought to write in a sum of £250,000, which was paid out by his own personal management company. No-one was surprised when, having bought his 'free' transfer, he decided in the summer to sign for Real. It was Llorente's brilliance on the wing, when introduced as substitute, which turned apparent defeat into victory for Madrid in their away second-round leg against FC Porto.

SANTILLANA — Carlos Alonso Gonzalez. Centre-forward. Aged 35 (born Aug 23, 1952) with 56 caps. Club captain and Madrid's longest-serving player, who made a comeback in place of suspended Hugo Sanchez in the first leg against Napoli. At his peak Santillana was one of the finest headers of a ball in the world. Played for Spain in the 1978 and 1982 World Cup finals, captained his country against England in the 1980 European championship finals in Italy and was still there when Spain finished runners-up to France in the 1984 Final in Paris. Joined Madrid in 1971 from Santander, following a path previously trodden by Gento. Re-established his career despite two serious injuries (kidney and eye) in the mid-1970s. He played in Madrid's losing finals against Liverpool (Champions' Cup) and Aberdeen (Cup-winners' Cup) and the UEFA Cup triumphs against Videoton and Köln. Has scored more Champions' Cup goals (22) than any other current player.

Emilio BUTRAGUENO Santos. Striker. Aged 24 (born July 22, 1963) with 28 caps. Nicknamed El Buitre, the Vulture — a label he lived up to in style in Madrid's UEFA Cup wins. In both campaigns he won the Italian-backed Bravo prize for Europe's most outstanding player under the age of 24. He was then voted into third place in both the 1986 and 1987 European Footballer of the Year polls. Butragueno is the great new hope of Spanish football. He was turned down as a youth by both Real and Atletico. But then Castilla, Madrid's second division nursery team, had other ideas. Butragueno scored 22 goals in the second division in the first half (!) of the 1982-83 season to earn rapid promotion to the first team under coach Alfredo Di Stefano — who should know a good forward prospect when he sees one. Butragueno made his debut as half-time substitute against Cadiz and scored twice to turn a 2-1 deficit into a 3-2 victory. Butragueno was one of Spain's non-playing reserves at the 1984 European championship finals, then made a scoring debut for his country in a World Cup win over Wales. In the UEFA Cup Butragueno scored a sensational hat-trick to defeat Anderlecht in the third round in 1984-5 and then his run and cross provoked the Steve Perryman own goal which killed off holders Tottenham in the quarter-finals which followed. After a quiet start to the next season Butragueno picked up in style and later claimed that the UEFA Cup semi-final return against Inter Milan (which Madrid won 5-1 to reach the final) was his best-ever match. He may have since revised his opinion after the astonishing four-goal display which shattered Denmark in the World Cup finals second round in Mexico. Those four goals included a penalty but Butragueño missed a spot-kick in last season's European championship tie against Rumania, only to redeem himself with a penalty goal in a later 2-0 win over Luxembourg.

Jorge VALDANO. Forward. Aged 32 (born Oct 4, 1955) with 27 caps for Argentina. An outstanding 1986 World Cup confirmed all the praise he collected in having helped Real Madrid win the UEFA Cup for the previous two seasons. Contracted hepatitis a year ago and has been unable to regain his Madrid place — although he did play for Argentina against West Germany last December. Valdano is now naturalised Spanish citizen and is fighting in the law courts to have foreign-player restrictions on him lifted.

Hugo SANCHEZ. Centre-forward. Aged 29 (born July 11, 1958) with 32 caps for Mexico. One of six children of Hector Sanchez, a former Mexican first division winger with Atlante. Hugo's elder brothers Hector and Horacio — all the children's names began with "H" after their father — also became professionals. Horacio kept goal for the Mexican Olympic team in 1972 and 1976. Herlinda, a sister, was a member of the Mexican gymnastics teams at the 1976 Games. Hugo took part in the Montreal Olympics. He later married the daughter of the team manager. Sanchez played for top club UNAM. One of Mexico's few successes at the 1978 World Cup finals, where they lost all three games — to Tunisia, West Germany and Poland. In 1981 he was sold to Atletico Madrid for £300,000 and in the 1984-85 season was top scorer in the Spanish league with 19 goals. Real Madrid then signed him for a Spanish record of £1.5 million: he was sent off for dissent in his first league game for Real but more than made amends by again finishing as the top scorer in the league, this time with 22 goals. A qualified dentist as well as goalscorer, he is poised to finish as the Spanish league's top scorer for the fourth successive season.

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	29	22	4	3	75	19	48
Real Sociedad

OLYMPIC GAMES . . . . . OLYMPIC GAMES

EUROPE

Preliminary round

Group 1

10. 9.86	Liechtenstein — Switzerland	0-10
23. 9.86	Switzerland — Liechtenstein	9-0

Switzerland 19-0 on agg.

Group 2

12.11.86	Cyprus — Greece	1-2
10.12.86	Greece — Cyprus	2-0

Greece 4-1 on agg.

Final round

Group A

18. 4.87	Rumania v W. Germany	1-0
20. 5.87	Greece v Denmark	0-5
20. 5.87	Rumania v Poland	0-0
10. 6.87	Denmark v Rumania	8-0
3. 9.87	Rumania v Denmark	1-2
22. 9.87	W. Germany v Greece	3-0
13.10.87	W. Germany v Poland	5-1
28.10.87	Poland v Denmark	2-0*
18.11.87	Denmark v W Germany	0-1
16. 3.88	Poland v Greece	5-1
22. 3.88	W Germany v Denmark	
30. 3.88	Poland v Rumania	
27. 4.88	Poland v W Germany	
18. 5.88	Denmark v Poland	
31. 5.88	Germany v Rumania	

*Denmark won 2-0 but the result was reversed by FIFA because Denmark fielded Per Frimann, who was ineligible having played in the last World Cup qualifiers.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Germany	4	3	0	1	9	2	6
Denmark	5	3	0	2	15	4	6
Poland	4	2	1	1	8	6	5
Rumania	4	1	1	2	2	10	3
Greece	3	0	0	3	10	13	0

Group B

3.12.86	Holland v E Germany	0-1
18. 2.87	Italy v Portugal	1-0
25. 2.87	Portugal v Holland	1-1
25. 3.87	E Germany v Italy	0-0
15. 4.87	Italy v Iceland	2-0
28. 4.87	Portugal v E. Germany	0-0
26. 5.87	Iceland v Holland	2-2
2. 9.87	Iceland v E Germany	2-0
22. 9.87	E Germany v Holland	4-2
7.10.87	Portugal v Iceland	2-1
18.11.87	Italy v E Germany	1-1
24. 2.88	Portugal v Italy	0-0
9. 3.88	Holland v Italy	0-1
30. 3.88	Holland v Portugal	
12. 4.88	E Germany v Portugal	
13. 4.88	Italy v Holland	
27. 4.88	Holland v Iceland	
30. 4.88	E Germany v Iceland	
24. 5.88	Iceland v Portugal	
29. 5.88	Iceland v Italy	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	6	3	3	0	5	1	9
East Germany	6	2	3	1	6	5	7
Portugal	5	1	3	1	3	3	5
Iceland	4	1	1	2	5	6	3
Holland	5	0	2	3	5	9	2

Group C

19.11.86	Spain v Sweden	1-1
19.11.86	Ireland Rep v Hungary	1-2
4. 2.87	Ireland Rep v Spain	2-2
28. 4.87	France v Hungary	0-2
5. 5.87	Sweden v Ireland Rep	1-0
13. 5.87	Hungary v Spain	2-1
3. 6.87	Hungary v Sweden	2-1
16. 6.87	Sweden v France	4-2
12. 8.87	France v Ireland Rep	1-0
25. 8.87	Ireland Rep v Sweden	0-1
9. 9.87	Sweden v Hungary	1-0
23. 9.87	Sweden v Spain	2-0
14.10.87	Spain v France	1-2
18.11.87	Ireland Rep v France	3-0
18.11.87	Spain v Hungary	1-0
23. 3.88	France v Spain	1-1
23. 4.88	Hungary v France	
4. 5.88	Hungary v Ireland Rep	
18. 5.88	Spain v Ireland Rep	
26. 5.88	France v Sweden	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	5	5	1	1	11	5	11
Hungary	6	4	0	2	8	5	8
Spain	7	1	3	3	7	10	5
Ireland	6	1	2	3	7	7	4
France	6	1	2	3	5	11	4

Group D

14.10.86	Norway v Sov Union	0-0
8.11.86	Switzerland v Norway	1-0
3.12.86	Turkey v Switzerland	3-2
15. 4.87	Turkey v Sov Union	0-2
16. 4.87	Switzerlandv Bulgaria	1-1
6. 5.87	Norway v Turkey	1-1
7. 5.87	Bulgaria v Sov Union	0-1
26. 5.87	Norway v Bulgaria	0-0
12. 8.87	Sov Union v Norway	1-0
26. 8.87	Norway v Switzerland	0-0
7.10.87	Switzerland v Turkey	2-0
28.10.87	Switzerland v Sov Union	2-4
14.11.87	Bulgaria v Norway	4-0
18.11.87	Turkey v Norway	0-0
9.12.87	Turkey v Bulgaria	0-3
6. 4.88	Sov Union v Turkey	
13. 4.88	Bulgaria v Switzerland	
27. 4.88	Sov Union v Bulgaria	
10. 5.88	Sov Union v Switzerland	
25. 5.88	Bulgaria v Turkey	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Soviet Union	5	4	1	0	8	2	9
Bulgaria	5	2	2	1	8	2	6
Switzerland	6	2	2	2	8	8	6
Norway	8	0	5	3	1	7	5
Turkey	6	1	2	3	4	10	4

Group E

14.10.86	Finland v Belgium	0-2
29.10.86	Czechoslovakia v Belgium	2-0
18.11.86	Belgium v Austria	2-3
14. 4.87	Austria v Czechoslovakia	2-0
12. 5.87	Finland v Austria	2-1
3. 6.87	Austria v Yugoslavia	0-1
10. 6.87	Finland v Czechoslovakia	0-2
26. 8.87	Yugoslavia v Austria	2-1
2. 9.87	Yugoslavia v Finland	5-0
23. 9.87	Czechoslovakia v Finland	2-0
24. 9.87	Belgium v Yugoslavia	2-2
7.10.87	Belgium v Czechoslovakia	0-2
28.10.87	Belgium v Finland	1-0
28.10.87	Czechoslovakia v Yugoslavia	1-0
11.11.87	Austria v Belgium	0-1
2.12.87	Yugoslavia v Belgium	4-0
12. 4.88	Czechoslovakia v Austria	
27. 4.88	Yugoslavia v Czechoslovakia	
18. 5.88	Finland v Yugoslavia	
31. 5.88	Austria v Finland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Czechoslovakia	6	5	0	1	9	2	10
Yugolavia	6	4	1	1	10	4	9
Belgium	8	3	1	4	8	13	7
Austria	6	2	0	4	7	8	4
Finland	6	1	0	5	2	13	2

ASIA

West Asia — 1st round results in October edition.

Final round

4.12.87	Saudi Arabia v Iraq	0-0
4.12.87	Qatar v Kuwait	0-0
11.12.87	Qatar v Iraq	1-3
11.12.87	Kuwait v Saudi Arabia	1-0
18.12.87	Kuwait v Iraq	2-1
18.12.87	Saudi Arabia v Qatar	1-1
1. 1.88*	Iraq v Saudi Arabia	1-1
1. 1.88	Kuwait v Qatar	0-0
8. 1.88*	Iraq v Qatar	4-1
8. 1.88	Saudi Arabia v Kuwait	0-0
15. 1.88*	Iraq v Kuwait	1-0
15. 1.88	Qatar v Saudi Arabia	1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iraq	6	3	2	1	10	5	8
Kuwait	6	2	3	1	3	2	7
Qatar	6	1	3	2	4	8	5
Saudie Arabia	6	0	4	2	2	4	4

IRAQ QUALIFY

East Asia — 1st round results in October edition.

Final Round

2. 9.87	Thailand v Japan	0-0
15. 9.87	Japan v nepal	5-0
18. 9.87	Nepal v Japan*	0-9
23. 9.87	China v Nepal	8-0
26. 9.87	Japan v Thailand	1-0
26. 9.87	Nepal v China**	0-12
1.10.87	Thailand v Nepal	3-0
4.10.87	Nepal v Thailand***	1-2
4.10.87	China v Japan	0-1
11.10.87	Thailand v China	0-1
18.10.87	China v Thailand	2-0
26.10.87	Japan v China	0-2

*Match played in Tokyo
**Match played in Shenyan (China)
***Match played in Bangkok

CHINA QUALIFY

OCEANIA

Group 1

Papua New Guinea — withdrawal

15.11.87	Taiwan v Australia	0-3
26. 2.88	Australia v Taiwan	3-0

Group 2

Fiji — withdrawal

7.11.87	W Samoa v New Zealand	0-7
14.11.87	New Zealand v W. Samoa	12-0

AFRICA

Preliminary and 1st round results in October edition.

Second round

4.10.87	Tunisia v Egypt	0-0
13.11.87	Egypt v Tunisia	0-1
4.10.87	Ghana v Cameroon	0-0
15.11.87	Cameroon v Ghana	2-2
1.11.87	Ivory Coast v Morocco	0-0
15.11.87	Morocco v Ivory Coast	2-1
3.10.87	Uganda v Zambia	2-1
14.11.87	Zambia v Uganda	5-0
4.10.87	Zimbabwe v Nigeria	0-0
17.10.87	Nigeria v Zimbabwe	2-0

Algeria w/o v Libya

Third Round

15. 1.88	Algeria v Nigeria	1-0
30. 1.88	Nigeria v Algeria	2-0

Nigeria 2-1 on aggregate

17. 1.88	Tunisia v Morocco	1-0
30. 1.88	Morocco v Tunisia	2-2

Tunisia 3-2 on aggregate

17. 1.88	Zambia v Ghana	2-0
31. 1.88	Ghana v Zambia	1-0

Zambia 2-1 on aggregate

TUNISIA, ZAMBIA, NIGERIA QUALIFY

SOUTH AMERICA

Tournament in Bolivia

Groups A and B — results in June edition

Final round

29. 4.87	Bolivia v Colombia	2-1
	Argentina v Brazil	2-0
1. 5.87	Brazil v Colombia	2-1
	Bolivia v Argentina	0-0
3. 5.87	Colombia v Argentina	1-0
	Brazil v Bolivia	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	2	0	1	4	4	4
Argentina	3	1	1	1	2	1	3
Bolivia	3	1	1	1	3	3	3
Colombia	3	1	0	2	3	4	2

BRAZIL, ARGENTINA QUALIFY

NORTH/CENTRAL AMERICA

Group A

25. 1.87	Bahamas v Guyana	1-3
22. 2.87	Guyana v Bahamas	3-0
26. 4.87	Antigua v Dom. Republic	1-1
3. 5.87	Dom. Republic v Antigua	0-0
	Trinidad/Tobago W/O v Surinam*	
22. 3.87	Barbados v Jamaica	0-0
5. 4.87	Jamaica v Barbados	0-1

Second round

31. 5.87	Guyana v. Dom. Republic	4-0
7. 6.87	Dom. Republic v. Guyana	1-2
10. 5.87	T/Tobago v. Barbados	2-0
24. 5.87	Barbados v. T/Tobago	1-1

Group B

23. 5.87	Canada v USA	2-0
30. 5.87	USA v Canada	3-0
1. 4.87	Bermuda v Mexico	2-1
13. 5.87	Mexico v Bermuda	6-0

Group C

19. 4.87	Panama v El Salvador	1-1
17. 5.87	El Salvador v Panama	3-2
17. 5.87	Honduras v Guatemala	1-2
31. 5.87	Guatemala v Honduras	2-2

Final round

Group A

6. 9.87	USA v Trin/Tob	4-1
20. 9.87	Trin/Tob v USA	0-1
18.10.87	El Salvador v USA	2 4
22 or		
25. 5.88	USA v El Salvador	
15. 5.88	El Salvador v Trin/Tob	
29. 5.88	Trin/Tob v El Salvador	

Group B

18.10.87	Guatemala v Guyana	6-0
25.10.87	Guyana v Guatemala	0-3
2.12.87	Guyana v Mexico	0-9
9.12.87	Mexico w/o v Guyana	—
3. 2.88	Mexico v Guatemala	2-1
14. 2.88	Guatemala v Mexico	0-3

MEXICO QUALIFY

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COLLECTOR OF OFFICIAL METAL football federation and club badges would like partners from around the world. Write to: Joachim Przybyla, ul Harcerska Nr 20/3, 41-813 Zabrze, Poland.

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BRAZILIAN BOY, 23, would like to exchange with people overseas magazines, scarves and shirts of football teams,and to sell or exchange Brazil National team videos of 70, 74, 78, 82 and 86 World cup. Write in English, Italian and Spanish. Wanderlei dos Santos, Rua Ninas Gerais 362, CEP 17750, Pitangueiras, Est Sao Paulo, Brazil.

SPORT FAN, 24, Malaysian girl wishes to corespond with male or female pen pals from all over the world. Write to: Charlene Ho, PO Box 10341, 88803, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, East Malaysia.

MAGAZINE COLLECTOR would like to exchange magazines of football from Spain, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium and Netherlands. Write to: Clarence Tsui, 15D Tung Hoi Mansion, Taikoo Shing, Hong Kong.

GREEK SOCCER METAL BADGE collector would like to exchange similar badges with collectors worldwide. Write in English to: Philip Axelos, Artemidos 21, Alikes, 382 22 Volos, Greece.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXCHANGE VHS soccer videos with fans worldwide. I have many different matches on video. Ernst Johannesen, Mellomstraen 8, 4005 Stavanger, Norway.

EXCHANGE WORLD SOCCER (March 85 — March 88) Football Monthly (Feb 85 — March 88) Irish soccer magazine (Feb 85 — Jan 88) for any Arsenal, Chelsea or Liverpool home programmes. Write to: Padraic Sweeney, Cruit Island, Kincasslagh, Letterkenny, Co Donegal, Eire.

YUGOSLAVIAN MAN would like to exchange metal lapel badges with people from around the world. Write to: John Stoshich, Omladin Brigada 44, 35000 Svetozar/ Streliste, Yugoslavia.

BRAZILIAN COLLECTOR of football jerseys only official would like to correspond with collectors worldwide. I have for change Gremio, international, Santos, Flamenco and others. Vitor Hugo Saldatta, Rua Independencia, 442, Sao Leo Poldo, RS CEP 93010, Brazil.

EXCHANGE VIDEOS, football items, money etc for videos of Brazilian national team (Already have sizeable collection). D. Woods, 161 North Hill Drive, Harold Hill, Romford, Essex, RM3 7AE, England.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXCHANGE entry tickets, programmes and other souvenirs. Gert Jan Van Der Veer, Lysterbesgaard 19, 5283 EW Boxtel, Holland.

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WANTED: Encyclopedia Mundial del Futbol in 1982 by Ediciones Oceano Exito of Barcelona, especially volume 3 "Las competiciones internacionales". Adolf Stolten, Beschkamp 13, Eichede, D-2074 Steinburg/Stormarn, West Germany.

WANTED: Collectors worldwide to form Collectors club. SAE/IRC for details. Alan Coope, 280 Broxtowe Lane, Aspley, Nottingham, NG8 5NA, England.

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WANTED: Rapid Vienna fans to write to Hibernian supporter to swap scarves, pennants, programmes. Write in English to: Mr L. Toshack, 122 Cables Wynd House, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6DG, Scotland.

WANTED: VHS recordings of Bulgaria 2-1 & 0-2 v Eire 1987 either live or highlights. Good price paid. Douglas Low, 147 Bennochy Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife, Scotland, KY2 5TS.

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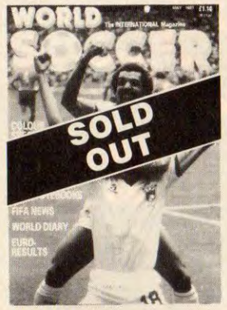

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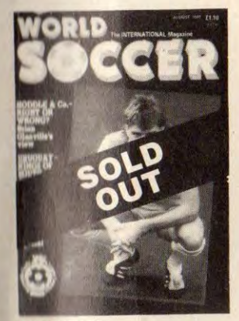

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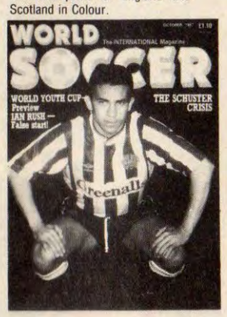

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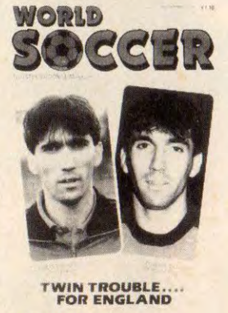

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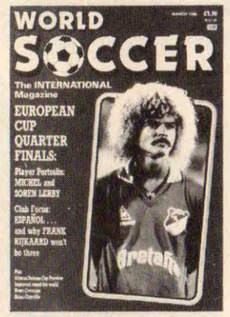

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